Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Would you agree to the marine monument proposal if the CNMI regains local control of its submerged lands?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

40 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Fiscal Crisis
The financial crisis dominated the first news conference held by President-elect Barack Obama.

NATION...Page 17

School Collapse
A Haiti school collapsed during classes on Friday, killing at least 30 and injuring more.

WORLD...Page 18

Guam buildup faces delays

But US, Japan still committed to buildup—admiral

BANZAI OFFERING NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ
Members of the Shikogakuen Mission offer flowers to those who perished during World War II at the Banzai Cliff Memorial Park in Marpi yesterday. ***See story on Page 2.***

ON THE NET
U.S. Pacific Command:
http://www.pacom.mil/

By DONNA MILES
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Both the United States and Japan remain committed to moving about 8,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam, but budget constraints could cause the process to take longer and cost more than initially expected, the senior U.S. commander in the Pacific reported.

Navy Adm. Timothy J. Keating discussed military transformation initiatives, including the Defense Policy Review Initia-

See BUDGET on Page 4

Jobless ranks hit 10 million

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's jobless ranks zoomed past 10 million last month, the most in a quarter-century, as piles of pink slips shut factory gates and office doors to

See HIGHEST on Page 4

AP
Rogelio Rodriguez, a former Los Angeles City administrator looks for jobs at the Chicana Service Action Center, Inc. East Los Angeles Worksource Center in Los Angeles on Friday, Nov. 7, 2008.

CNMI's best dance crew crowned tonight

KABA Modern, one of the finalists in the MTV competition "America's Best Dance Crew."

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The best dance crew in the CNMI will be known tonight when 10 youth groups strut their stuff in the most anticipated dance competition to hit Saipan.

With an entrance fee of just $5, enthusiasts are expected to fill the Marianas High School Gymnasium to the rafters to watch the performances of the 10 competing teams.

Eight teams are from Saipan, while Tinian and Rota will have one each.

See KABA on Page 4

Fund trustees flying to Texas for conference. **PAGE 2**
Athlete: Arrest warrant caused by miscommunication. **PAGE 3**

Around the CNMI

Fund trustees flying to Texas for conference

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four members of the NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees will travel to San Antonio, Texas, next week to attend a four-day employee benefits conference.

All seven of the trustees were expected to attend the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans conference, but three had to pull out because of prior obligations, said Mark Aguon, administrator for the Fund.

He said he wanted all new trustees to attend the conference, although he could not recall which ones were attending.

"It's very important for new trustees to know what their responsibilities are. It's a great way for them to get immersed in pension fund issues," he said.

Two trustees will also be taking a benefits certification test.

Aguon said the Retirement Fund is paying for the trustees' airfare and registration for the conference. He did not know the exact amount spent, but according to the conference Web site, registration costs run from $1,065 to $1,360 per person, depending on when the person registered and whether or not the attendee is a member of the organization.

Although the NMI Retirement Fund is currently underfunded, Aguon said trustees are regularly sent to the conference to keep them up to date on issues related to pension funds.

"I'd be more worried about trustees not up to date in their skills and knowledge," he said. "It's not something you can learn on the job, issues that are relevant now in pension funds. It's always good to see from the point of view of bigger funds to see how they are dealing with the same issues we are dealing with."

During the conference, lasting Nov. 16-19, Aguon said the trustees would take a class on fiduciary responsibility.

In fiscal year 2008, the CNMI government underfunded the NMI Retirement Fund by $33 million.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

The 143 members of the Shikogakuen Mission from Japan pray at the Banzai Cliff during a peace ceremony yesterday.

Fitial joins memorial service at Banzai

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial welcomed and thanked 143 members of the Shikogakuen Mission from Japan as he and his wife and other government officials and business leaders joined the annual Peace Ceremony Service yesterday at Banzai Cliff.

The ceremony was led by Rev. Masakazu Kawakami, nephew of Rev. Seizan Kawakami, the founder of Shikogakuen Mission.

The Mission is a religious organization started in 1945.

The Japanese delegation offered prayers, songs and flowers at the Shiko Gakuen Monument, which the members have been doing for the past 22 years.

The occasion was also to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the monument, which was built in 1988 for all victims of the Battle of Saipan during World War II—not just the Japanese but also the Americans and the natives of the Mariana Islands.

Fitial said it gives great comfort to know that after long years of that terrible war in 1944, "many of you have never forgotten" it.

"You kept this vital tradition of faith and remembrance alive by coming here every year to pay tribute and respect to those lost in battle, and not only to remember but also to pray for lasting peace and harmony in our world, that we may reduce and possibly even eliminate the needless loss of life through such terrible armed conflicts," Fitial said.

The governor acknowledged the group's effort to remind everyone that each may gain a greater understanding of each other as human beings, regardless of race, culture or national identity.

"That peace and understanding will triumph in this world for future generations to enjoy," Fitial said.

He thanked them for their annual visit to honor the dead, pray for peace and honor this sacred ground where thousands perished during the war.

Fitial joined the group in honoring the peace monument as a reminder of the legacy of the late Reverend Teruhiko Kawakami, the 3rd president for Shikogakuen Mission, "and as a tribute to global peace and understanding."

"So many years after the end of World War II, we still see so many armed conflicts in the world today, especially in the Middle East. I pray that the world may learn more of the sentiments we honor and express here," he said.

BIRTHDAY PRINCESS

Happy 2nd birthday to "Princess" Marialssabella Josephina Camacho "LiaGirl," who celebrates her birthday today, Nov. 9. With all our love, mommy and your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Live fire training today, tomorrow on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam si warning the public that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla today and tomorrow, Nov. 9-10.

Today's training will be from 10:30am to 12:30am. Tomorrow, the training will be from 7am to 6:30pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Because of the danger inherent to this activity, EMOis strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

Dems say thanks for voting

The NMI Democratic Party issued a statement Thursday extending its appreciation to all supporters who voted in the Nov. 4 election.

"Not only do we have our first delegate, but we also have our first black president. We will keep you posted regarding our Democratic Appreciation Party and victory party for our president-elect Barack Obama later this month, where we will also be conducting our NMI Democrat registration drive. On behalf of the NMI Democratic Party, we thank you for your support," the statement said. ***(PR)***

Athlete: Arrest warrant caused by miscommunication

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Local sports star Kelvin Fitial says his four-year-old outstanding arrest warrant in California is a matter than needs to be resolved between the California judge and probation officer.

Fitial, who was convicted of burglary in Butte County, Calif., in 2003, served nearly a year of his five-year sentence.

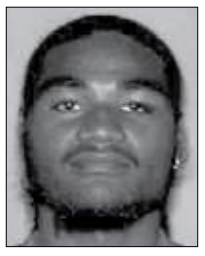
When Fitial was up for probation, the judge, over the objections of the prosecutor and probation department, placed Fitial on probation and allowed him to return to Saipan. Under the probation terms he was to write his probation officer once a month, pay restitution and complete community service. An e-mail between Fitial's public defender and Betty Miller, who Fitial considers a mother, confirms the conditions.

At his first probation meeting, the officer told Fitial he would not let him return to Saipan, Miller said.

"Well, it's not the probation officer's decision," she said. "It's the judge's decision, so Kelvin came back to Saipan, met the terms of the agreement and wrote to the probation officer once monthly."

After the first month, the Butte County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for his arrest for violating probation. Fitial is included on the Sheriff's Web page of wanted fugitives.

At this time, Fitial and Miller sent a letter to the judge saying, "Look, judge, he's not violating probation, he's doing exactly what you told him to do," but they received no response, Miller said. After two months and no response from the judge or probation officer, Fitial stopped writing the probation office, because the warrant was already out for his arrest.


Fitial

Miller said the probation department has both Fitial's and her current contact information.

"If California really wanted him, they wouldn't have to work too hard to find him," she said. "He hasn't been hiding from this, but at the same time, he hasn't been formally notified that he missed a court date."

The matter needs to be addressed between the probation officer and judge, Fitial and Miller said. Miller believes the probation officer got a different judge to sign off on the arrest warrant.

Fitial could pursue the case and clear his name but "at this point in his life it hasn't really affected his quality of life on Saipan," Miller said.

He has not returned to the U.S. mainland since he was released from jail, and Miller said she does not recommend he travel to the U.S. until the case is cleared, although Fitial has traveled to Guam. When he goes through immigration his name is flagged, but once he shows the officers the judge's release he has been able to proceed, Fitial said.

There's no clear-cut process on how to go about addressing the situation for Fitial, Miller said, adding that he can't easily travel to California to fix a mess he didn't cause.

A representative from the Butte County Sheriff's Office said she could not comment on Fitial's case, but that if his picture is on the Web site then he "violated probation in some way."

During his time in jail, Fitial said he researched cases and learned that he should have been charged with breaking and entering, a lesser charge, and not burglary, because no items were taken out of their original location. But because he did not understand the U.S. legal system at the time, he said he signed whatever his public defender told him to.

Fitial is set to be a main event at the upcoming Trench Warz IX on Dec. 12. Trench Tech president and event promoter Justis "Cuki" Alvaraez said he could not comment on Fitial's case until he learned more about the situation.

Miller said mixed martial arts has helped Fitial and his friends tremendously.

"Mixed martial arts changes people for the better," she said. "Those boys have changed a lot. It's a channel for their aggression."

JACQUES PICCARD, 86
In this file photo dated Nov. 15, 1959, Dr. Andreas B. Rechnitzer, left, and Jacques Piccard, right, pose by the conning tower of the Navy bathyscaphe *Trieste* after descending to a record depth of 18,600 feet (5670 meters), off Guam, Nov. 15, 1959. A firm led by Jacques Piccard says the undersea explorer who dove deeper beneath the ocean than any other man died on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008. Piccard was 86.

AP

3 WASC officials evaluate NMC accreditation report

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three members from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges met with various officials from Northern Marianas College this week to assess the college's improvements as NMC attempts to achieve full accreditation in January.

Earlier this year, WASC ordered NMC to provide reasons—or "show cause"—'why the college's accreditation should not be terminated. The show cause order set a timeline for NMC to submit reports to the accrediting agency. The college submitted a report to the agency in October. The three WASC officials were on island to check the college's compliance with the report. WASC will decide in January if the college should be accredited. The college remains accredited during this time.

"The visit provided us with an opportunity to present strong evidence of the work put forth by the students, staff, faculty and board members," NMC president Carmen Fernandez said. "Overall, the visit went well. We look forward to receiving the Commissioner's decision at the end of January 2009."

Fernandez said until the report is made republic, she could not comment specifically on any discussions made with the visiting team.

To prepare for the WASC officials, NMC officials continued the work it had set in motion when the college was placed on show cause status, Fernandez said.

NMC has chosen to submit a supplemental report to the accrediting agency in December, she said.

"The supplemental report will describe our continued efforts to meet accreditation standards," she added.

The WASC visiting team was composed of three members: Dr. Sherril Amador, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges commissioner; Dr. Karen Graham, Accrediting commissioner for Senior Colleges and Universities; and Dr. Steve Maradian, ACCJC.

The team met with Fernandez, members of the NMC Board of Regents; and officials from the college's various offices.

The WASC officers also met with approximately 200 students, faculty and staff during a general assembly held on Tuesday.

Fernandez said the college still has a lot of work to do.

"There is still much work to do for the December supplemental report, and of course, preparation for the spring 2009 semester," she said.

"The college doesn't wait; the work to provide a quality educational experience is never-ending," she added.

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Budget issues could delay Guam buildup

From Page 1

tive focused on the U.S.-Japan alliance, during sessions in New York at the Council on Foreign Relations yesterday and at the Foreign Press Center on Nov. 5.

The plan includes moving 8,000 Marines and their families from the Japanese island of Okinawa to Guam, relocating two U.S. air bases in Japan from urban to rural areas, and realigning the Japan Self-Defense Forces to complement the U.S. realignments.

The plan is expected to reduce the U.S. footprint in Japan to about 10,000 Marines, while taking advantage of opportunities provided in Guam.

"The two governments of the United States and Japan have recommitted at the very highest levels—prime minister and president—to the eventual success of the DPRI," Keating said at the Foreign Press Center.

But budgetary challenges "measured in the billions of dollars" that both countries face could cause slight delays in how quickly the relocation occurs, he said. Japan agreed to pick up about $6 billion of the cost, and initial plans called for the move to be completed by 2014.

A Government Accountability Office report issued in May noted that some Defense Department and Guam officials believed the schedule was overly optimistic in light of financial shortfalls and infrastructure requirements in Guam.

"It'll take a little bit longer to effect—we won't be done by 2014, or maybe even 2015, but it's about a decade in execution," Keating said. "It will cost us a little bit more money than we currently have budgeted, but our countries remain committed."

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates visited Guam in May to get a firsthand look at growth under way to prepare for the Marines' arrival.

The secretary took a helicopter tour of Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Base Guam and other island facilities to see construction already started in preparation of the arrival of members of 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force and an estimated 9,000 family members.

"All in all, it will be one of the largest movements of military assets in decades and continue the historic mission of the United States military presence on Guam: to serve as the nation's first line of defense and to maintain a robust military presence in a critical part of the world," Gates said.

Keating called the recent move of the USS *George Washington* to Japan a broad-reaching transformational issue in the region. The Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier arrived at Fleet Activities Yokosuka on Sept. 25, and headed out to sea Oct. 1 for its first operational training in the region.

"The support of the Japanese government in moving a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to Japan was...significant," Keating said. "It's been years in the making, and it's a very strong signal of the spirit of cooperation that's so prevalent in our dealings with Japan."

Keating spoke in broad terms about challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, which spans half the globe, emphasizing the importance of partnerships in the U.S. security cooperation plan.

"We want to represent the strength and the capabilities of the United States military, but we don't want to overdo that," he said. "We would much rather have a cooperative and collaborative atmosphere that we enjoy in almost every part of our [area of responsibility] rather than rely on military power."

Meanwhile, Keating said U.S. Pacific Command is watching closely the "potential areas of concern" in its region. These include terrorist threats in the southern Philippines from the Jamaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf organizations, as well as tensions between India and Pakistan, North and South Korea and China and Taiwan.

Keating said he continuously emphasizes the importance of multilateral cooperation that promotes regional stability during his meetings with military, political and commercial leaders.

"We do all that we can to reassure all of our partners and allies and friends in the region that we are all about a stable, secure environment with economic prosperity for all," he said.

KABA Modern to star in tonight's dance contest

From Page 1

To spice up the event, the Marianas College Foundation has invited the stars of KABA Modern, one of the finalists in the MTV competition "America's Best Dance Crew." The group is flying in from Guam where they performed for a fundraising event.

The stars of California-based dance group will be performing live and will be judging the local dance competition. The group's six members are Mike Song, Jia Huang, Cindy Minowa, Tony Tran, Lawrance Kao and Yuri Tag.

The winner of the CNMI's version of the Best Dance Crew will have the chance to make an appearance in MTV's next season of the dance competition, according to producer Ed Arriola Jr. He said the winning group will have a chance to fly to Los Angeles and compete in the show.

The show's third season will be in February next year.

The competing teams are made up of mostly high school and college students.

Tickets are available at PTI Garapan, Mobil Kagman, Power 99 Studios, KWAW 100.3 Studios, Pacific Trading Company and NMC Bookstore.

The event aims to raise funds for the Northern Marianas College and attract more students to the college.

Earlier reports revealed that a big percentage of local students prefer to go to Guam or elsewhere for a college education after finishing their high school term.

Tan Holdings Foundation is one of the main sponsors of the dance competition.

Other major sponsors are PTI, Mobil, Power 99/Sorensen Media Group, Pepsi, KWAW 100.3, Continental Airlines, Hertz, G4S Security, Elite Printing, Sky Castle Limousines, and the *Saipan Tribune*.

Highest number of jobless in the last 25 years

From Page 1

240,000 more Americans with the holidays nearing. Politicians and economists agreed on a painful bottom line: It's only going to get worse.

The unemployment rate soared to a 14-year high of 6.5 percent, the government said Friday, up from 6.1 percent just a month earlier. And there was more grim news from U.S. automakers: Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp., American giants struggling to survive, each reported big losses and figured to be announcing even more job cuts before long.

Barack Obama, in his first news conference as president-elect, said the nation was facing the economic challenge of a lifetime but expressed confidence he could deal with it.

"Immediately after I become president, I'm going to confront this economic crisis head on by taking all necessary steps to ease the credit crisis, help hardworking families, and restore growth and prosperity," he said after meeting with economic advisers in Chicago. "I'm confident a new president can have an enormous impact."

Wall Street revived somewhat after two days of big losses. The Dow Jones industrials rose 248 points.

Still, the Labor Department's unemployment report provided stark evidence that the economy's health was deteriorating at an alarmingly rapid pace. The jobless rate was 4.8 percent just one year ago.

About 10.1 million people were unemployed in October, the most since the fall of 1983. More people have jobs now, since the population has grown, but it's still a staggering jobless figure. With employers slashing jobs every month so far this year, some 1.2 million positions have disappeared, over half in the past three months alone.

Like Obama, President Bush expressed confidence that things would get better: "Our economy has overcome great challenges before, and we can be confident that it will do so again."

But economists were much less upbeat than politicians.

"There is no light at the end of the tunnel, and the outlook is pitch black," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research.

And Bernard Baumohl, chief global economist at the Economic Outlook Group, said the report "depicts an economy still in free fall and without a safety net anywhere in sight."

All the economy's woes—a housing collapse, mounting foreclosures, hard-to-get credit and financial market upheaval—will confront Obama when he assumes office in January. Unemployment is expected to keep rising during his first year in office, while record budget deficits will crimp his domestic agenda.

October's jobless rate was the highest since March 1994 and now has surpassed the 6.3 percent 2003 high after the most recent recession. The government also said job losses were worse than first reported for the preceding two months, 284,000 rather than 159,000 in September and 127,000 rather than 73,000 in August.

Many economists believe the unemployment rate will climb to 8 percent or 8.5 percent by the end of next year before slowly drifting downward. Some think unemployment could even hit 10 or 11 percent—if an auto company should fail.

In any case, the rate is likely to move higher even if the economy is on somewhat stronger footing by the middle of next year as some hope. That's because companies won't be inclined to ramp up hiring until they feel certain that a recovery has staying power.

Joshua Shapiro, chief economist at consulting firm MFR Inc., said another reason the unemployment rate can keep climbing—even after a recession is over—is because people tend to flock back to the labor market when they sense their job prospects might be better. "It takes (people) awhile to figure out, 'Hey, there's jobs out there,'" Shapiro said.

In the 1980-1982 recession—considered the worst since the Great Depression in terms of unemployment—the jobless rate rose as high as 10.8 percent in late 1982 just as the recession ended, before inching down.

Friday's report was worse than analysts had expected. They had been forecasting a jobless rate of 6.3 percent with payrolls falling about 200,000.

Factories, including auto makers, construction companies, especially home builders, retailers, mortgage bankers, securities firms, hotels and motels and educational services, all cut jobs. As did temporary help firms—a barometer of future hiring. All those losses more than swamped the few gains elsewhere, including in the government, health care and in accounting and bookkeeping.

Private companies cut 263,000 jobs, the most since the country was beginning to emerge from the 2001 recession. It marked the 11th straight month of such reductions.

The grim numbers spurred calls from Democrats on Capitol Hill to provide fresh relief. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Democrats, in a lame-duck session later this month, will push to enact another economic stimulus package of around $100 billion, possibly including provisions to create jobs through big public works projects.

Obama said if the session doesn't bring passage, the measure will be his first priority as president in January.

He has called for about $175 billion in new stimulus spending, including money for roads, bridges and aid to hard-pressed states. He wants a rebate of $500 for individuals, $1,000 for families and a new $3,000 tax credit for businesses for each new job created.

Workers with jobs saw only modest wages gains in October. Average hourly earnings rose to $18.21, a 0.2 percent increase from the previous month. Over the past year, wages have grown 3.5 percent, but paychecks aren't stretching far because high food, energy and other prices have propelled overall inflation at a faster pace.

The economy has lost its footing in just a few months. It contracted at a 0.3 percent pace in the July-September quarter, signaling the onset of a likely recession. It was the worst showing since the 2001 recession, and reflected a massive pullback by consumers.

As consumers watch jobs disappear, they'll probably retrench even further, spelling more trouble. Analysts say the economy is still shrinking in the current October-December quarter and will contract further in the first quarter of next year. All that more than fulfills a classic definition of a recession: two straight quarters of contracting economic activity.

"The U.S. recession is deepening," said Michael Gregory, economist at BMO Capital Markets Economics. The final quarter of this year is getting off to a "particularly ugly" start.

AP Economics Writer Christopher S. Rugaber contributed to this report.

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Saipan Tribune

Student leaders take part in Youth Advisory Panel

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Approximately 100 student leaders from 19 of the Public School System's schools gathered together Thursday to discuss issues important to students.

This is the first time in about 20 years that PSS hosted the Youth Advisory Panel.

PSS Education Commissioner Rita Sablan said she wanted to re-start the panel because one of the Board of Education's goals for the commissioner is to establish communication between the students and the COE.

"We want to start hearing what is good for them. What do we need to do?" she said.

She is hoping to hold panels once a quarter. The next one is expected to be in January.

The daylong event also allowed students to learn more about the roles of the education commissioner and the Board of Education.

"We set policies and regulations," board chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita told the students. "We mold you."

Even though the focus is on students, they are usually overlooked when making decisions, because "adults think they know everything," Blanco-Maratita said.

She said she hopes to continue the panel and possibly get students to branch off and share input through the Internet or other forums.

"To really get a good representation of the cross section," she added.

Blanco-Maratitia commended Sablan for taking the initiative to re-start the Advisory panel.

"We need to do more. It's been overlooked," she said.

Edward Bai, a 6th grade student at WS Reyes Elementary, said he was looking forward to meeting with other student leaders.

"It's a good way to interact with other students," said Bai, the public relations officer for WSR's Student Council.

Gathering students from each of the schools together has been long overdue, said Jonas Barcinas, principal of Dandan Elementary.

"It's great to bring youth leaders together, meeting higher-ups to feel part of the family," he said, adding that students are the ones feeling the pain and gathering together can open up the lines of communication.

Most of the student representatives from the schools hold leadership positions, such as Student Council officers of National Honor Society officers, although teachers or principals nominated some students. Tinian Elementary did not send any representatives.

Dandan Elementary principal Jonas Barcinas introduces the elementary school's student representatives during the PSS Youth Advisory Panel.

KRISTI EATON

Man in 'ice' case indicted in fed court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government on Thursday indicted a garment worker who was earlier reported as yielding the second biggest haul so far of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice" in the CNMI.

The indictment, however, indicated that 138 grams of "ice" were involved and not 176.6 grams (worth $80,000), as reported earlier by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Yong Ming Song, 41, was indicted with possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school with intent to distribute.

According to the indictment filed by assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, on Sept. 11, 2008, Song was found in possession of 138 grams of "ice" within 1,000 feet of the Marianas High School.

In Friday's hearing, Song and his court-appointed counsel, Joey San Nicolas, waived reading of the indictment and pleaded not guilty.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David A. Wiseman remanded Song to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

According to DEA, Police Sgt. Anthony Macaranas and Police Officer Daniel Punimata recovered the drug haul during a random check on Song, whom they flagged down for allegedly not wearing a seatbelt.

Song is an employee of Rifu Garment Factory in San Vicente.

A DEA special agent stated in his report that on Sept. 11, 2008, at 10:40pm, Macaranas and Punimata were cruising along Beach Road in San Jose aboard a Department of Public Safety patrol car when they saw a white Toyota Corolla driving south.

The two officers noticed that the driver, later identified as Song, was not wearing a seatbelt. As the Toyota Corolla entered the Susupe area, Macaranas activated the police car's emergency lights and stopped the vehicle.

As Song reached for the documents being requested by the officer, he was observed sweating and his hands were shaking.

The officers looked inside the vehicle and found a large plastic bag with a gray duffel bag inside it. Punimata opened the bag and found three Oil of Olay soap boxes that had been opened and then taped shut. The officer opened the boxes where he found 15 small ziplock bags containing "ice."

Saipan Tribune learned that the 138 grams of "ice" was actually the third biggest seizure of "ice" in the Commonwealth. The largest amount of "ice" seized was 370 grams when authorities raided the house of a couple on Saipan in August 2002.

The second largest was 170 grams when authorities in August 2001 arrested David Tanaka Diaz, who was subsequently convicted and sentenced.

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

The new order

The post-election order continued to take shape Thursday. Another Senate Republican, Oregon's Gordon Smith, was defeated, taking Democrats to 55 Senate seats and further thinning the ranks of GOP moderates. Rep. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., the capable House Republican whip, announced he would step aside, most likely to be replaced by his more conservative chief deputy, Virginia's Eric Cantor. After a day of will-he-or-won't-he speculation, Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill., said he would become the president's chief of staff, and Barack Obama prepared to meet the press for the first time today as president-elect.

The choice of Emanuel is daring and somewhat risky, but it also gives Obama the benefit of a skilled and relentless operator who understands the inner workings of both the executive branch and Congress. Emanuel is a sharp-elbowed partisan whose renowned abrasiveness has rankled some within his own party; even more, Emanuel has been a focal point of Republican ire, especially since he played an instrumental role in winning back the House for the Democrats. The Republican National Committee and House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, expressed some of that enmity in statements issued Thursday. Boehner termed Emanuel's selection "an ironic choice for a president-elect who has promised to change Washington, make politics more civil and govern from the center." The RNC statement was even more acid, saying that "the White House needs a chief of staff—not a chief campaigner like Emanuel."

The GOP response is worth taking to heart—the new president needs to demonstrate a willingness to reach across the aisle—but it is not entirely fair. Emanuel is undoubtedly a partisan, but with centrist instincts. In his previous White House job, he oversaw President Bill Clinton's effort to win passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement; he was a voice for pursuing issues such as welfare reform and co-authored a 2006 book, "The Plan," with his former White House colleague Bruce Reed of the centrist Democratic Leadership Council. The leftward precincts of the party may have more reason to be discomfited by Emanuel's selection than Republicans do. Emanuel could be an enormously effective chief of staff, playing a useful bad cop to the new president's good cop and translating Obama's political agenda into governing reality, but he will also need to temper his impatient personality to the demands of a new role.

The less-than-gracious GOP statements, and the turmoil in the House leadership ranks, underscore the choice ahead for the Republican minority: whether to try to cooperate with the new president or, with moderates an endangered species in the party, to form an unyielding opposition. We are not in the business of giving either party advice on how to tend to its electoral interests, but the public does not seem positively inclined toward political jockeying and reflexive obstructionism. Republicans should, of course, stand up for their principles, although the party, in the aftermath of its loss, will inevitably spend some time debating exactly what those are. But the country—and, we suspect, the party as well—would benefit from a sincere effort to find common ground with the new administration on some of the daunting issues facing the country in the months ahead.

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Conspicuous consumption is starving our economic soul

By JUDITH FREEMAN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Freeman is the author, most recently, of The Long Embrace: Raymond Chandler and the Woman He Loved, *published in paperback later this month.*

On the night of Aug. 21, 2001, my husband and I checked into a motel in Miles City, Mont. Once settled, we poured ourselves a glass of wine and turned on the TV in order to relax after a long day's drive. I've never forgotten that night. It has haunted me ever since.

An economist on the evening news was discussing the economy, then in the midst of a serious slump. The economist looked into the camera and said, "If the American consumer packs it in, the entire global economy is in jeopardy. The American consumer better hang tough or we're in real trouble."

I don't think I had ever before quite understood in such stark terms just what beasts of burden we'd become. What the economist said made me realize something I'd never considered—that the entire global economy, as he put it, depended on Americans continuing to consume.

Over the years, that phrase—"the American consumer better hang tough"—has passed through my mind many times. And, each time, what those words conjure is a great herd of donkeys so loaded down with goods that they're staggering beneath the weight.

Three weeks later, four planes piloted by terrorists flew into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania, leaving almost 3,000 Americans dead and the rest of us in shock. The reaction of our president to these events was to advise us to go out and keep shopping—to continue our "participation ... in the American economy" were his exact words. Not even the worst terrorist nightmare could deter the beasts from being asked to carry more—hanging tough, in the words of that economist. Not even in the midst of national mourning were we allowed to give our frantic consumption a rest.

I had been in Miles City as part of a trip with my husband through Wyoming, Montana and North and South Dakota. He's a photographer and was taking pictures of thrift stores throughout the West. Thrift stores are where the poorest of the poor do their shopping. Many people rely on the inexpensive, recycled goods just to get by.

Over time, on that trip and others, I've witnessed events in thrift stores that surprised and moved me. The frail, elderly woman, for instance, whom we observed stealing a $2 blouse from a thrift store in Reno by shoving it into her purse. Or the young couple in Jerome, Idaho, who had just gotten married and were carefully picking out plates and silverware, trying to find items that matched.

There was the young man in Butte, Mont., who put $1 down in order to take advantage of a layaway plan and purchase $10 worth of clothes, with a month to pay off his bill. And the father in Winnemucca, Nev., who bought oversized shoes for his boy, even though the dejected kid could hardly walk in them. "They'll last you two years instead of one," the father said encouragingly. "Don't worry, you'll grow into them."

But perhaps one of the most poignant moments occurred in a Salvation Army thrift shop in Billings, Mont., during that August 2001 trip. A woman and her children were discussing some items they wanted to buy, and the woman was explaining to her kids that they had to wait because she didn't have the money right then. The mother said, "Well, if we can make it till September, we'll come back and get some things." Her son, a boy of about 8, frowned, obviously disappointed, then looked up and said, "When is September, Mom?"

Thrift stores are places where not only the poorest of the poor shop but where one can also see the incredible turnover in the products Americans have consumed and then discarded, often perfectly good items that simply don't get used any more. In thrift stores, you see the evidence of our gluttony.

Now, of course, we're all thinking differently. It's time to pull back. The beast of burden simply can't carry any more. Few Americans have much in the way of savings. Many of us have lived beyond our means. The typical American carries credit card debt of more than $8,000, and credit is tightening. The party is over, and for many Americans it wasn't even that much fun.

It seems to me there might be a good side to this. It's as if the consuming fever has broken, if only temporarily. We're disinclined to carry more debt or keep shopping, even if we could, even knowing that the entire global economy might depend on us getting and spending. We're all wondering where this economic meltdown is headed, and how long it might last—how long till September? And will there be a time when we can hope to be relieved of our burden of hanging tough? Can there be some different kind of engine to drive the world economy other than the endless, often mindless consumption by ordinary Americans? These are the questions I'd like answered. But I'm not holding my breath.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A way out of the wilderness

By JEFF FLAKE
Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a Republican, represents Arizona's 6th District in the U.S. House.

Well, we Republicans have just made history. Not the type of history we wanted to make, mind you, but history nonetheless. Not only did we lose the White House but, after losing our House and Senate majorities in 2006, we followed it up Tuesday night with even steeper losses in Congress.

In January, Democrats will enjoy lopsided congressional ratios not seen since the 1970s. Let's face it: We Republicans are now, by any reasonable measurement, deep in the political wilderness.

The temptation for Republican members of Congress today will be to assume the role of the post-Watergate Republicans of 1974 and accept minority status as a permanent condition. Indeed, the terrain is more difficult for us now than it was in 1992. Then, Republicanism was still largely defined by the Reagan years. Today the party is defined in the public mind by the Bush presidency. We've got a steep hill to climb.

Much of the backroom maneuvering and media speculation in the coming weeks will focus on identifying new standard-bearers for the party. This is important, and after a second straight drubbing, the House Republican leadership should be replaced. But the far more critical task is determining what standard these new leaders will bear.

I suggest that we return to first principles. At the top of that list has to be a recommitment to limited government. After eight years of profligate spending and soaring deficits, voters can be forgiven for not knowing that limited government has long been the first article of faith for Republicans.

Of course, it's not the level of spending that gets the most attention; it's the manner in which the spending is allocated. The proliferation of earmarks is largely a product of the Gingrich-DeLay years, and it's no surprise that some of the most ardent practitioners were earmarked by the voters for retirement Tuesday. Few Americans will take seriously Republican speeches on limited government if we Republicans can't wean ourselves from this insidious practice. But if we can go clean, it will offer a stark contrast to the Democrats, who, after two years in training, already have their own earmark favor factory running at full tilt.

Second, we need to recommit to our belief in economic freedom. Adam Smith's "The Wealth of Nations" may be on the discount rack this year, but the free market is still the most efficient means to allocate capital and human resources in an economy, and Americans know it. Now that we've inserted government deeply into the private sector by bailing out banks and businesses, the temptation will be for government to overstay its welcome and force the distribution of resources to serve political ends. Substituting political for economic incentives is not the recipe for economic recovery.

Most House Republicans opposed the recent bailout and will be in a strong position to promote economic freedom over central planning as the Obama administration stumbles from industry to industry trying to determine which is small enough to be allowed to fail and which is not. Since timetables will be in vogue, perhaps Republicans could even insist on a timetable for getting the government out of the private sector.

There are, of course, other pillars of the Republican standard—strong national defense, support for traditional values and the Second Amendment—but these are not areas where voters question Republican bona fides. In any event, as we have seen over the past several months, economic woes tend to subsume other concerns. We shouldn't complain. We can now play our strongest hand.

In some respects, raising a new standard was made easier by Tuesday's rout. The Republican Party is not bound by election-year promises made by its presidential nominee. More important, the party is finally untethered from the ill-fitting and unworkable big-government conservatism that defined the Bush administration.

This is not to say that it will be an easy transition. Congressional Republicans picked up some unattractive habits over the years in an effort to hold on to power. Whether it was relying on the redistricting process to help us choose our constituents, using the appropriations process as an ATM or passing legislation—such as a generous prescription drug benefit and a bloated farm bill—to pacify individual constituencies, these habits and voting patterns will be hard to break.

But there is reason for Republicans to feel optimism. Politically, America remains a center-right country, and America loves a chastened and repentant sinner. As surely as the sun rises in the east, the Democrats will overreach.

As long as we Republicans are willing to admit our folly, get back to first principles and work like there's no tomorrow, we've got 'em just where we want 'em.

Republicans' road back

By JOHN BOEHNER
Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a congressman from Ohio's 8th District, is the House Republican leader.

WASHINGTON—While Republicans are disappointed by Tuesday's results, we respect the American people's decision and pledge to work with President-elect Barack Obama when it is in the best interest of our nation. Some Democrats and pundits may want to read Tuesday's results as a repudiation of conservatism—a sign that Republicans should give Democrats on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue a free ride. I don't see it that way, and neither should Republicans across the country.

The next four years are critical to the future of our families, our economy and our country, and we have a responsibility to rebuild our party by fighting for the principles of freedom, opportunity, security and individual liberty—the principles upon which the GOP was founded. Recommitting ourselves to these principles means two things: vigorously fighting a far-left agenda that is out of step with the wishes of the vast majority of Americans and, more important, promoting superior Republican alternatives that prove that we offer a better vision for our country's future.

America is still a center-right country. This election was neither a referendum in favor of the left's approach to key issues nor a mandate for big government. Obama campaigned by masking liberal policies with moderate rhetoric to make his agenda more palatable to voters. Soon he will seek to advance these policies through a Congress that was purchased by liberal special interests such as unions, trial lawyers and radical environmentalists, and he'll have a fight on his hands when he does so.

In record numbers, Americans voted on Tuesday for a skillful presidential nominee promising change, but "change" should not be confused with a license to raise taxes, drive up wasteful government spending, weaken our security, or give more power to Washington, Big Labor bosses and the trial bar. Americans did not vote for higher taxes to fund a redistribution of wealth; drastic cuts in funding for our troops; the end of secret ballots for workers participating in union elections; more costly obstacles to American energy production; or the imposition of government-run health care on employers and working families.

Republicans have a responsibility to offer a better way. We must reaffirm Americans' faith in our party by reminding them why ours traditionally has been a party of reform rooted in freedom and security. This will not happen overnight. We must make the case one issue at a time, offering solutions to our country's biggest challenges to earn back the American people's trust and rebuild our majority.

Our most immediate challenge is creating new jobs and getting our economy moving in the right direction again. While Republicans have put forward a plan for economic growth and job creation, congressional Democrats are proposing hundreds of billions of dollars in new government spending masquerading as "economic stimulus." To rebuild 401(k) plans and keep jobs here at home, we'll offer tax relief for families and small businesses. And to lower fuel costs and create as many as a million new jobs, we'll offer a comprehensive plan for more American energy.

We'll also offer health-care reforms that empower patients and doctors, promote a strong military that keeps us on offense to protect the American people, and demand fiscal and ethical reforms to fix a broken Washington tarnished by scandals on both sides of the aisle. We have a responsibility to the American people to make sure our ideals are heard, and we expect these to be vigorous debates.

I wasn't born a Republican. I grew up outside Cincinnati as one of 12 children. Our dad ran a bar. I became a Republican because I believe that if you work hard and believe in yourself, there is nothing you can't achieve. That's the American dream. And I look forward to leading Republicans in fighting for it. If we return to our roots, to our belief in freedom, opportunity, security and individual liberty, our party will come back stronger than ever.

In Congress, Republicans will work across party lines to find solutions to the immense challenges that confront our nation. But we'll also stand firmly against policies that violate our principles—the same principles held by the vast majority of American families. We Republicans must renew our nation's trust in us by offering better alternatives rooted in the reforms that define our party and by fighting for the American dream.

The faces of change, on the front page

By COURTLAND MILLOY
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—When I was growing up in Shreveport, La., during the 1950s, the white-owned morning newspaper did not publish photographs of black people. We were invisible. You might have heard about Martin Luther King Jr., but if all you read was the local rag, you'd think he was just a faceless, communist "Negro."

Such memories have been stirred by the recent run on post-Election Day newspapers across the country. Even in Shreveport, headlines hail history being made, beneath which are some of the largest, most beautiful color photographs of a black family ever published in a newspaper.

Call it another "Obama tsunami" moment, in which the election of Barack Obama as the nation's first black president produces one mind-blowing wave of emotion after another. For me, nothing has been more breathtaking so far than the new image of the black family that the Obamas have brought to the fore.

"They want that front page," said my dad, 84, referring to an ongoing clamor among black people in Shreveport for more copies of the once rabidly segregationist Shreveport Times.

The banner headline on Wednesday's edition read "Change Is Here," and the rest of the page was nearly taken up by a color photograph of the Obamas, American flags flying in the background.

Some of my neighbors in Fort Washington, Md., waited in line for a copy of The Washington Post longer than they had waited in line to vote. When they finally got their hands on one, the first thing many of them did was stop and stare at the photos.

"Aren't these the most beautiful girls," Earlene Harris, 23, a cosmetology student, said of the Obama children. Her friend Maude Fitzgerald, also a student, said in giddy disbelief: "Am I dreaming, or are they really going to live in the White House?"

Even though the Obama family represents a black middle-class norm, such images have been all but absent in newspaper portrayals. Black families have either been ignored by the media or portrayed as dysfunctional breeders of crime and poverty.

And when a successful, intact, productive black family was in the spotlight, they were most likely media fictions created to entertain, such as Bill Cosby's Huxtables or the brood belonging to Tyler Perry's popular matriarch Madea.

Now we've got the real thing out front and on center stage: a black first family.

Of course, my hometown newspaper didn't just start publishing photographs of black people. That's been happening for years now, and they include the usual black athletes, black politicians and black preachers.

But let's face it: The black person whose face is most likely to show up in an urban newspaper these days has either been charged with a crime or convicted of one. The result has been an egregious distortion of the black male image.

As one newspaper reader mused while admiring an Obama family photo, "I wonder if Obama would have been elected if he had two teen-age boys instead of two little girls?"

Obama himself—articulate, well groomed, easygoing—might offer the most powerful antidote yet to the widespread misperception of black men.

For now, though, I'm just trying to get my head around the idea of Obama as the nation's first black president, happy to have a newspaper to consult for visual, tactile and dated proof whenever disbelief calls for a double take.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲84° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

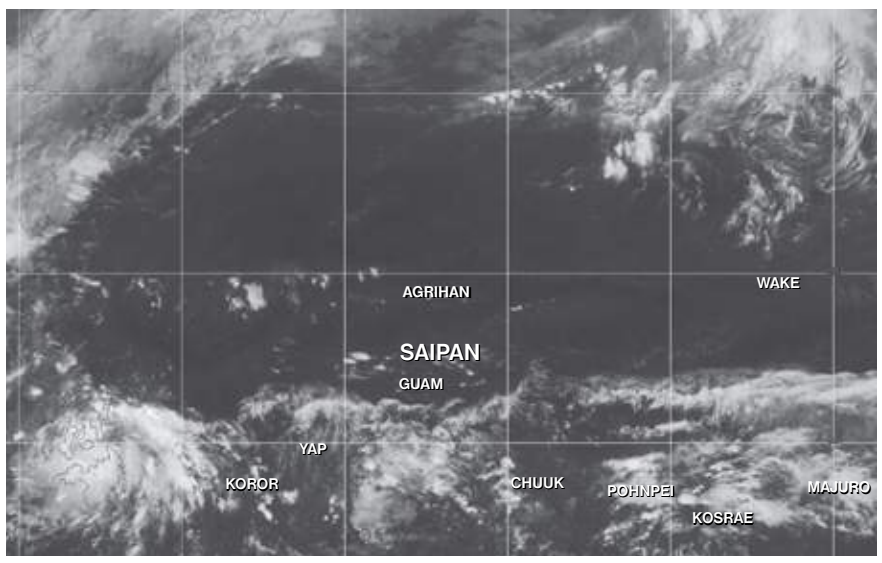
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84	▼70
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼45
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼34
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼73
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼44
Los Angeles	Clear	▲84	▼56
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼71
New York	Cloudy	▲65	▼57
Osaka	Showers	▲70	▼49
Paris	Clear	▲54	▼42
Pusan	Rain	▲65	▼52
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼48
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼51
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼49
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼38
Tokyo	Showers	▲71	▼49
Washington, DC	Clear	▲74	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough combined with low-level convergent winds flowing into a disturbance over Mindanao and Cebu of the Philippines is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 6N and 11N from 130E to 132E. A surface trough running from 4N139E to 11N141E and upper-level divergence are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in patchy areas east of the trough between 7N and 10N from 141E to 147E. This area is east of Yap and south of Guam. A weak surface trough and favorable upper-level conditions are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 30 miles of a line from 6N150E to 8N149E. This area is west of Chuuk. Trade-wind convergence and upper-level divergence are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in scattered areas from 6N to 9N from 156E to 172E and within 30 miles of a line from 2N162E to 1N166E. This first area includes Pohnpei and Majuro and is north of Kosrae. The second area is southeast of Kosrae.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

03:49AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
09:56AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
04:29PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:10PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:16AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:17AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:17AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:17AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:18AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:31PM	2:04AM
Monday	3:10PM	2:56AM
Tuesday	3:53PM	3:51AM
Wednesday	4:40PM	4:50AM
Thursday	5:33PM	5:54AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:30am	6:20am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

OZ 608	1:30am	4:30am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 607	5:30pm	12:30am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

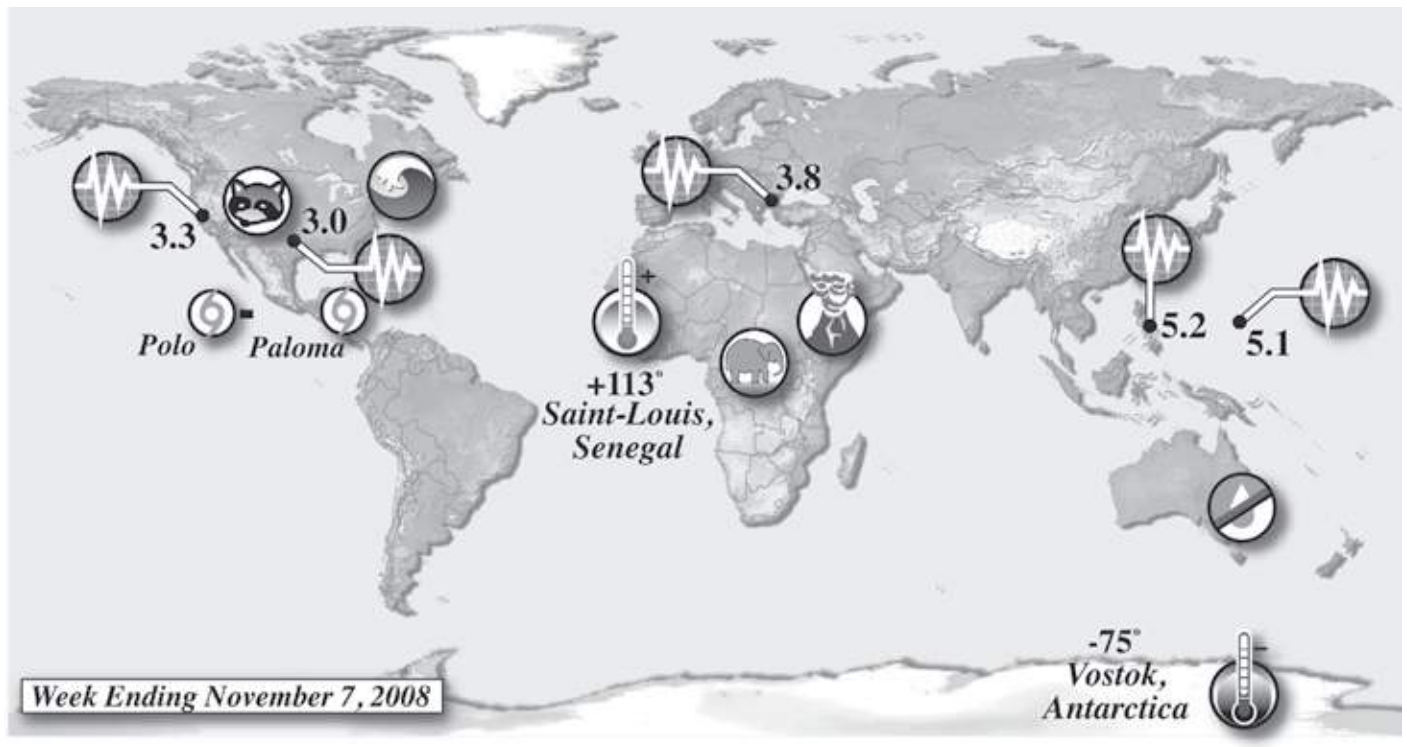
Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Drought Ghost Towns

The United Nations' environment chief warned that some parts of the world may have to be abandoned because climate change and overuse of water resources will leave them far too dry to be inhabited. Achim Steiner, executive director of the U.N. Environment Program, said "economic deserts," unfit for people or agriculture, could develop in the poorest nations in the world as well as some of the most prosperous. Steiner cautions that only urgent action to fight global warming and poverty could prevent the creation of untold numbers of climate refugees. "Unchecked climate change will mean that some parts of the world will simply not have enough water to sustain settlements both small and large, because agriculture becomes untenable and industries relying on water can no longer compete or function effectively," Steiner said.

Roadway Prisons

A new study says that forest elephants in Central Africa are under siege from road construction, which has frightened them from roaming the woods that have been their home for thousands of years. Researchers from the Wildlife Conservation Society say the elephants have learned to associate roads with poaching and other dangers, and now avoid crossing them at all costs. Only one of 28 pachyderms tagged with a GPS collar crossed a road outside a protected area, and it did so at 14 times its normal walking speed. "Forest elephants are basically living in fear of their lives in prisons created by roads. They are roaming around the woods like frightened mice rather than tranquil formidable giants of their forest realm," said Stephen Blake, the study's lead author.

Rogue Waves

Late reports from the coast of Maine said that a series of three large waves ripped apart docks and snapped pilings in Boothbay Harbor, and swamped Southport and Bristol within a matter of minutes on Oct. 28. The waves were up to 12 feet in height and caused as much as $20,000 in damage. "It was bizarre," lifelong Boothbay resident and dockworker Marcy Ingall told The Boston Globe. She said many were joking, "Is this the end?" The rogue waves baffled experts. Some speculated they could have been caused by a strong storm squall or a kind of underwater landslide along a steep canyon in the ocean, which would have caused a sort of mini tsunami. One reader along the coast told the newspaper that he had felt a small tremor prior to the waves' arrival.

Ethiopian Eruption

A volcano in Ethiopia's northeastern Afar region was awakened by a swarm of tremors, then soon produced a lava flow that covered a record 115 square miles. Addis Ababa University's Institute of Geophysics, Space Sciences and Astronomy said the eruption occurred at Erta Ale, which is the country's only known active volcano. It is located in the Danakil Depression, one of the lowest and hottest places on the planet.

Tropical Cyclones

Tropical Storm Polo formed briefly off Mexico's Pacific coast. Maximum sustained winds briefly reached only 40 mph.

■ Tropical storm Paloma formed off the Caribbean coast of Honduras, and threatened to strike Cuba as a Category 2 storm the following week.

Earthquakes

Parts of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area were gently shaken by an unprecedented series of 10 minor tremors over a two-day period. There are no significant faults or seismic features that could produce a major quake in northern Texas, and the U.S. Geological Survey believes the swarm could have been due to temperature changes or the "settling" of the ground.

■ Earth movements were also felt in the Central Valley of California, Guam, the eastern Philippines and northeastern Bulgaria.

The Raccoon Flu

U.S. researchers report they have discovered that the raccoons raiding your back yard could be the carriers of diseases, such as both the human and bird strains of influenza. "It turns out raccoons are like the Typhoid Mary of wild animals," said lead author Jeffrey Hall, a virologist with the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wis. "More diseases have been found in raccoons than pretty much any other wild animals. ... You name it, raccoons get it." Hall and his colleagues took blood samples from the mammals in a variety of locations across the country and tested them to find evidence of antibodies to flu. They found that the percentage of infected raccoons ranged from zero in Texas and California to nearly 13 percent in Colorado and 25 percent in Wyoming. Hall writes in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases that raccoons could be among the hosts in which flu strains mutate to be able to infect humans and other mammals.

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www.earthweek.com
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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man accused of repeatedly firing at gasoline pump

NAUGATUCK, Conn. (AP)—A man who police said fired gun shots into a gasoline pump on Saturday morning was expected to be charged with three felonies when he's released from a local hospital. Police said the man went to the Sunoco gas station on New Haven Road and fired a shotgun at a gas pump several times while customers stood nearby. Luckily, nobody was injured and the pump did not explode. The man drove off and struck two cars and was injured in a crash following the shooting incident. Police have an arrest warrant for the man and his hospital room is being guarded 24-hours a day by two police officers.

Man allegedly puts centipedes in neighbor's bed

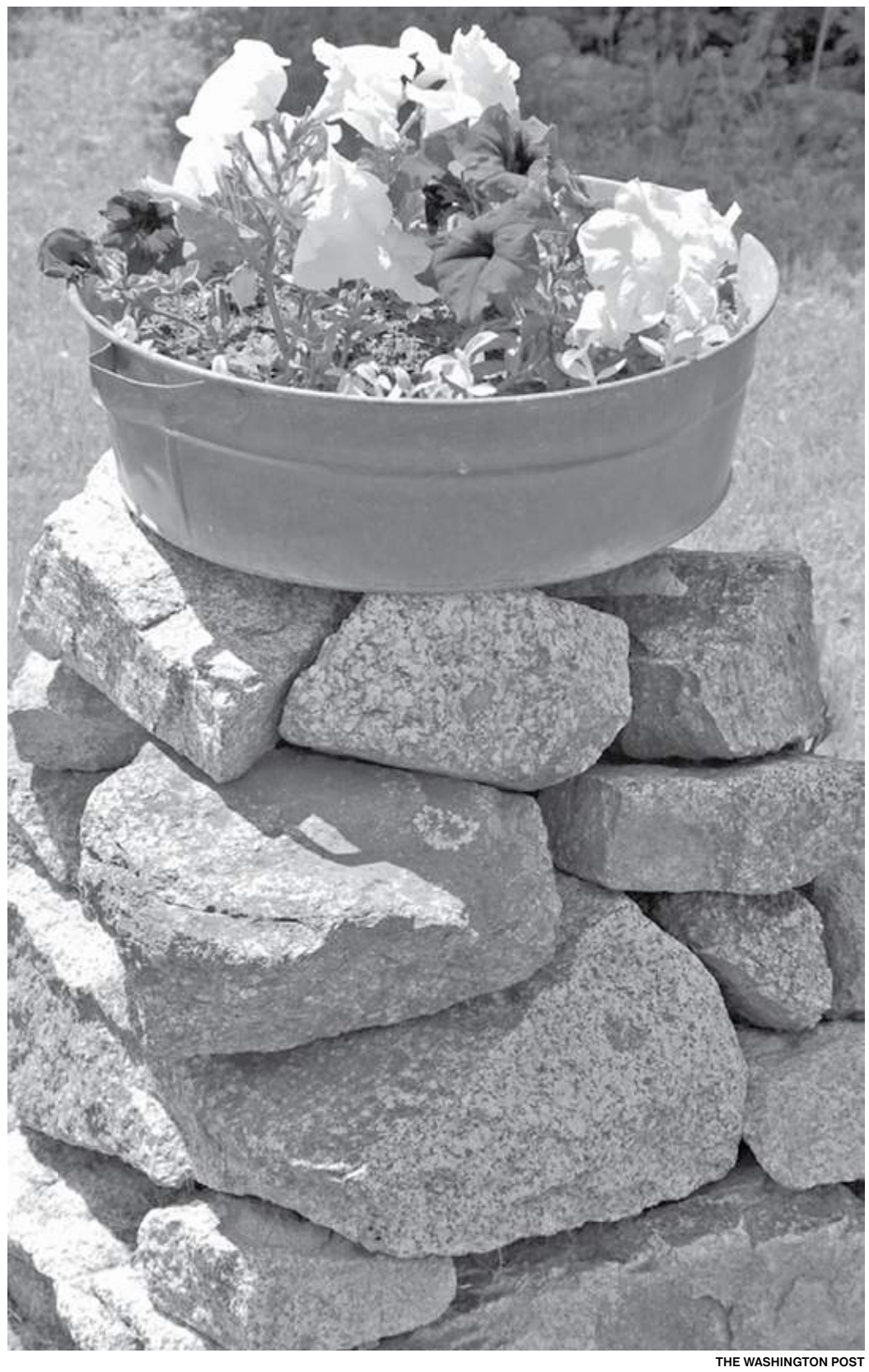
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian man has been accused of trying to hurt his neighbor with a dangerous weapon - centipedes. Prosecutor Mazri Mohamed said Wednesday that R. Prabakaran has been charged with attempting to cause harm with a dangerous weapon after allegedly unleashing four centipedes and bugs in his neighbor's bed last week following an argument. Prabakaran, 21, allegedly climbed on to the roof to enter his neighbor's house where he committed the offense, Mazri said. It was not clear what species the centipedes were. Some species are poisonous.

Ky. man, 82, accused of trading drugs for sex

BEREA, Ky. (AP)—Police investigating an elderly man's complaints about theft at his home discovered the man allegedly traded prescription drugs for sexual favors. Police charged the 82-year-old man with trafficking in a controlled substance. The man was released on bond. The Lexington Herald-Leader reported that police said they were initially concerned that women in their 20s, often seen at the man's home, were taking advantage of him. Police begin their investigation after the man called the department several times to report missing medication, household items and a television. But officers soon discovered he gave two women the prescription drug OxyContin in exchange for sex.

Good Housekeeping

How to save money in the garden



THE WASHINGTON POST

Rather than buying decorative containers, use found objects such as metal tubs, sinks, tires or even old boots. Anything with drainage will suffice.

By JOEL M. LERNER, APLD
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

People are trying to figure out how to save money everywhere they can. A lot are becoming interested in growing their own fruits and vegetables.

Growing your own food is not a slam-dunk for saving, however. Newsweek magazine reported earlier this year that Americans spend $34 billion a year on gardening. That's three out of four homeowners and about $401 per family. That doesn't include outdoor furniture and barbecuing equipment, and it doesn't distinguish among people who are merely mowing lawns and those who are trying to become more self-sufficient. It does indicate that it's possible to spend a lot of money outdoors.

One example of this is William Alexander, who wrote a book about his gardening experiences called "The $64 Tomato: How One Man Nearly Lost His Sanity, Spent a Fortune, and Endured an Existential Crisis in the Quest for the Perfect Garden" (Algonquin, 2007). Alexander calculated he spent $1,219 to produce 19 heirloom tomatoes.

Nonetheless, there are many ways to save money in the garden. Here are some:

Save on plants by not buying them at all. Learn to propagate your own seedlings using a helpful resource, such as "Making More Plants" by Kenneth Druse (Clarkson Potter, 2000).

Start your fruit and vegetable seeds indoors in late winter to be ready for spring planting. If you have a sunny window and the space for it, you can have a ready-made garden on May 1.

THE WASHINGTON POST

There are many ways to save money in the garden. One is to preserve herbs and produce this fall by canning, drying and freezing.

It doesn't take much to start: a few packets of seeds, some simple containers—egg cartons and yogurt cups are often suggested—and some water and sunlight. Seeds are cheaper than seedlings, seedlings are cheaper than well-started plants, and smaller plants are cheaper than larger ones.

If you're a novice, this is the season to move indoors. Visit your library for books on gardening advice, talk to neighbors who garden, and consult your local cooperative extension service or garden center for lists of the best garden practices for your area. Excellent educational Web sites include those of the Missouri Botanical Garden (www.mobot.org), Ohio State University (www.plantfacts.osu.edu/images.lasso), the Maryland Home and Garden Information Center (www.hgic.umd.edu) and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (www.ext.vt.edu).

Good soil preparation, water and sunshine can produce a superb yield of crops that should not require expensive pesticides or other chemical applications. To install plants directly into the soil, till three inches of compost, placed on the surface, into the top eight to 10 inches of soil. You can do this now or in late winter. Purchase disease-resistant fruits and vegetables when you are ready to plant.

Grow ornamental plants from seeds you have saved or from cuttings taken from existing plants. If you didn't lose them in a first frost, take stem cuttings from annuals now and grow indoors in bright, indirect sun through winter. Many perennials can be divided now, when they freeze back or in late winter before new growth begins. Check particular plant requirements before proceeding.

Don't buy fertilizer. Compost instead. Pile organic material in some unobtrusive part of your property. If you live in an urban area, you may prefer to invest in a composting container. There are some clever and fairly small composting drums and other designs. Avoid putting cooked food waste in the compost pile.

Don't buy chemicals. Use integrated pest management. Find out which insects and wildlife are beneficial and encourage them. Find out which ones are harmful and get rid of them. Do this by manually removing them. As a last resort, if insect populations are out of control, you might have to purchase a product to spray. Ensure that the material is the safest one available for the pest you have identified and are treating.

Design your landscape with native plants. They require less care, less water and less chemical intervention to thrive.

Save water. Use drip irrigation and plants that require less watering in your region. Collect rainwater and save "gray" water, such as water you have used to cook vegetables, for use in the garden.

Instead of expensive decorator containers, use found art, such as old sinks, troughs or tubs, tires, boots or buckets—anything that can accommodate drainage holes will work. Shop at flea markets and thrift stores for potential containers. Save household plastic items such as gallon milk jugs, which make great watering cans, and old five-gallon utility buckets that make great planters for herbaceous and woody plants.

Preserve fresh produce from your garden, your neighbors or your local farmer's market. Canning, preserving, drying and freezing are excellent ways to use garden yields and improve your family's diet over the colder months. Freezing broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, herbs, legumes, root crops and peas can stretch food dollars.

Grow your own herbs. They're much less expensive than those in supermarkets, and you can freeze or dry some for future use. Rosemary, basil, thyme, mint, oregano, dill, cilantro and sage all thrive in the mid-Atlantic climate.

Cut back on turf grass. Maintaining a good-looking lawn can be expensive. Turf requires conscientious intervention to keep it looking nice — mowing, fertilizing and weeding. Consider reducing the size of the lawn and planting vegetables or perennial flowers and shrubs instead.

Install plants to save energy. Deciduous trees planted to the south and west sides of dwellings provide summer shade and reduce air-conditioning use. Plant a tall evergreen hedge on the north and east sides to provide a winter windbreak.

Search the Internet for sources of gardening information, including money-saving tips. For instance, www.frugal-gardening.com has impressive lists of tips. One idea: Use clamshell-style restaurant takeout containers to start seeds. Use the type with transparent lids and close them to keep in warmth and moisture, open them to let in cool air.

Another site, www.pennypinching-grandma.com, suggests using cardboard tubes from paper towel and toilet paper rolls to start seedlings. Cut them into two- or three-inch lengths. By the time your plants are ready to go into the soil, the cardboard is soft enough to put right in the ground.

Lerner is president of Environmental Design in Capitol View Park, Md., and author of "Anyone Can Landscape" (Ball 2001). Contact him through his Web site, www.gardenlerner.com.

Before sorting closets, you'll want to sort possibilities

By KATHLEEN HOM
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—When you're Googling for tips on closet organization, the first thing you learn is there's no single best method.

Some professionals recommend storing items in drawers; others say to keep everything visible. What guidance to follow and what to ignore depend on your lifestyle: How much time and energy are you willing to invest to organize your mess? It helps to keep an open mind, because organization principles you disregard for one closet may work for another.

Twelve professional organizers offer tips on tackling messy closets at ReadersDigest.com. Among the advice: Hold a clothing swap instead of tossing clothes you don't want anymore. Belt racks can be used for handbags if hung vertically. Storing offseason items in luggage can save space.

HowToCleanStuff.net has a handy guide on organizing clothing, linen and utility closets. In all cases, it's about visibility and keeping similar things together. For example, trousers should be hung in a group and lined up by color.

As an alternative, Organizedhome.com recommends creating multiple outfits out of five to eight pieces and hanging those coordinating clothes together.

Purging is essential to getting organized. LifeOrganizers.com recommends dividing clothing into piles: outdated, ripped, stained or doesn't fit; needs minor repairs; worn often; and anything that doesn't fit into the other categories. Then take action. For example, items needing repair should be fixed within two weeks or tossed because they're not important enough for you to mend.

Organizing items might not help if the source of the problem is the closet itself. DoItYourself.com has a handy guide for building your dream closet, including sketching plans, figuring out the necessary tools and knowing what materials are most appropriate.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Autumn Chicken Dinner

4 medium ears of corn
2 medium zucchini
4 large plum tomatoes
4 medium chicken-breast halves
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
1 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon olive oil
2 tablespoons fresh basil, chopped
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Remove husks and silk from corn. With serrated knife, cut each ear of corn crosswise into 3 pieces. Cut zucchini into 3-inch chunks. Cut each tomato lengthwise in half.

2. Place chicken breasts in large roasting pan (17 by 11 1/2 inches); sprinkle with oregano and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Arrange corn and zucchini around chicken. Bake chicken and vegetables 30 minutes. Add tomatoes and bake 15 minutes longer or until juices run clear when chicken is pierced with a knife and vegetables are tender.

3. Meanwhile, in cup, with fork, mix lemon juice, olive or salad oil, chopped basil, sugar, crushed red pepper and remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt.

4. Arrange chicken and vegetables on large platter. Brush chicken and vegetables with lemon mixture. (Remove skin from chicken before eating if you like.) Serves 4.

Chicken Apple Burgers

Shredded apple keeps these chicken burgers moist and flavorful without adding any extra fat. Serve with potato salad or coleslaw dressed with a mustard vinaigrette.

2 Granny Smith apples, cored
1/2 teaspoon poultry seasoning
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 pound ground chicken
1/4 cup (about 1/2 stalk) finely chopped celery
4 hamburger buns
1/2 cup whole-berry cranberry sauce

1. From each apple, cut 6 thin slices crosswise from center (for a total of 12 apple rings). From remainder, coarsely shred 3/4 cup apples. Spray ridged grill pan with nonstick cooking spray; heat pan over medium-high heat until hot.

2. In medium bowl, stir shredded apple with poultry seasoning, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper until blended. Mix in chicken and celery just until combined, but do not overmix. Shape chicken mixture into four 1/2-inch-thick burgers, handling mixture as little as possible.

3. Place burgers in grill pan; cook 10 to 12 minutes or just until chicken loses its pink color throughout, turning over once. Serve burgers on buns with apple rings and cranberry sauce. Serves 4.

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Orange you ready for a jolt of happiness?

A jolt of orange, small or big, can add energy to your home. From top, Gemini Flamingo pillow, Maren candlesticks, Ojai dinnerware, Store 'N Cube nesting tables, Otomi fabric runner, bead storage bushel, lacquered boxes and cashmere throw.
THE WASHINGTON POST

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

If you see orange in your home only once a year, it's time to give it a second chance.

"Orange is the ultimate antidepressant," decorator Jonathan Adler says. "It's the color of sunshine. It's crisp and refreshing. It will always be my go-to color for a jolt of happiness."

Adler, whose signature "10 Commandments for a Happy, Chic Home" include "Thou shalt not be afraid of orange," says he pairs it with white, chocolate brown, navy and lemon yellow.

Orange paint has gained popularity in the past few years, says Jackie Jordan, a director at Sherwin-Williams. "Two or three years ago, it was a bright, citrusy orange," she says. "Now we're seeing a little shift to the spicier side, with colors a bit more toned down." The paint company is including a nutmeg shade of orange, Tiger Eye, in its color forecast for 2009.

If you're thinking about painting with orange, it's best to do so in moderation, Jordan says. A muted orange would work well in a powder room, she says, while a brighter shade would be fun for an accent wall in a child's bedroom.

Another option: painting a single piece of furniture for a small yet bold statement.

Or try Adler's approach and add an orange piece as a "punctuation mark" to your decor. "An orange lacquered tray, an orange ceramic bowl or an orange side table can instantly make a space feel hip and alive," he says. "How can you feel sad if you are eating your cereal out of a bright orange bowl?"

Photo product information, clockwise from top:

■ Gemini Flamingo pillow ($65), Maren candlesticks (short, $50; tall, $75) from www.blisslivinghome.com.

■ Store 'N Cube nesting tables ($199 for a set of three) from www.pbteen.com.

■ Bead Storage Bushel ($275) from www.hableconstruction.com.

■ Lacquered boxes ($295 for a set of three) from www.plantationhomeaccessories.com.

■ Solid cashmere throw ($298) from www.wshome.com.

■ Otomi fabric runner ($68-$72) from www.jacarandahome.com.

■ Ojai dinnerware collection dinner plate ($24), salad plate ($20), small bowl ($20) and mug ($15) from www.jonathanadler.com.

■ Binders (mini, $16; three-ring, $24) and rubber bands ($8 for a set of two) from www.russellandhazel.com.

Door won't latch? Here's a quick fix

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
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Q: Your recent column about the door that wouldn't latch was good with all the mention of using shims, but missed the easiest fix. In more than 35 years, I have seen many doors where the hole in the frame is in the wrong place by up to a quarter-inch. Simply take out the striker plate, file the hole bigger and replace it. You may have to carve on the wood behind a little bit. When the door otherwise is mounted plumb and square, this is the simplest way.—Owen, via e-mail

A: Thanks, Owen! This sounds like a faster way to line up a door with the latch.

■ ■ ■

Q: I appreciated your recent article on putting together an electrical repair toolkit. I'm interested in doing repair jobs as safely as possible. Do you have any other safety tips for do-it-yourselfers?—A.S., via e-mail

A: I have several, but today I'll list a few common hazards around the home that everyone should look for. An article in the November issue of "ShopSmart," a magazine produced by Consumer Reports, listed these and several more, along with recommended fixes.

Making your home safer can be as simple as adding a non-slip bath mat to your tub or shower and installing a grab bar on the wall. It can be as easy as turning down your hot water heater to no more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent accidental scalding in the shower (it saves energy, too).

Having test equipment around is important. A voltage tester is a must-have in a repair kit, but did you know a block of wood can be used to test the garage door? It should automatically reverse when the block is detected; if not, you need to upgrade the mechanism. Do-it-yourself radon and lead test kits will help keep your family healthy.

HOME TIP: When childproofing your home, have a ruler handy. Use it to measure spaces between crib bars (no more than 2-3/8 inches) or deck railing slats (no more than 4 inches) to ensure a child's head won't get caught between them.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

The Good Life

Mask maker puts Bali's best faces forward

By BILL BRUBAKER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

We knew Bali wasn't only about dreamy beaches, late-night bars and cheesy T-shirt shops. So on our first visit here, in 1991, my wife and I left our beachfront hotel to explore a culture-rich region in the countryside, known for its galleries and artisan workshops.

"First, I'll take you to the best mask maker in Bali," our taxi driver announced as our day trip began. His "best" label made us uneasy; surely, we thought, we were headed to a place that sold gaudy, mass-produced masks, perhaps made by the driver's favorite uncle.

Oh, how wrong we were.

Freddi and I have been collecting folk art for about 30 years, and our house is decorated with some 2,000 objects from holidays in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. We never cared much for masks, though, until that summer morning when we met Ida Bagus Anom in a village near Ubud, Bali's cultural capital.

Ushering us into his studio, Anom strapped on a mask that depicted a witch with long fangs and a menacing scowl. Then he danced, playfully flailing his arms and making scary noises, demonstrating how the mask was used in the traditional Barong dance, which tells a popular Balinese story about a mythological character who is king of the spirits.

Anom's masks were exquisite, finely carved and carefully painted with flourishes that included horsehair mustaches and mother-of-pearl teeth. We bought six (each costing about $100) and suddenly had a new obsession. Bummed that we had booked our entire Indonesian holiday at that beach hotel, about an hour away, we vowed that if we ever returned to the island we would stay in artsy Ubud.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Mask maker Ida Bagus Anom smiles as the author's daughter wears one of his creations in his studio in Mas, near Ubud, Bali's cultural capital. "Masks are like psychotherapy," Anom says. "You put them on and you feel different."

Seventeen years and 250 masks later, we returned this summer with our 15-year-old daughter, Gabriela, checking into Ubud's Hotel Tjampuhan & Spa, a sprawling compound that manages to be intimate, with traditional Balinese bungalows nestled into lush, tropical gardens.

Our two-story bungalow was once owned and occupied by Walter Spies (1895-1942), a German painter who helped spark an art resurgence here in the 1930s. We had a blissful view of a lily pond from our veranda. But there was little time to linger. After breakfast that first morning, we hired a car and driver (a terrific bargain at $6 an hour) to take us to Mas, the woodcarvers' village where we had met Anom.

Googling him in recent years, I learned that Anom is revered as a traditional mask dancer as well as a mask maker. I also discovered that he once appeared in a National Geographic TV show that showcased Bali and that his fans include Peter Brook, the British film and theater director. As with many artisans here, Anom learned his craft from his father, who in turn learned it from his father.

We asked our driver to take us straight to Ida Bagus Anom's studio. He nodded, then took us instead to the workshop of another mask maker, Ida Bagus Padang Rata. (Warning to collectors trying to track down Balinese artists: Pay close attention to their names, which are often similar. Ida Bagus, for example, is a name given to male members of a particular Hindu caste. Although Indonesia is the largest Muslim nation in the world, Bali is decidedly Hindu.)

THE WASHINGTON POST

Mask maker Ida Bagus Anom models a mask depicting a frog in his village, Mas, near Ubud, Bali's cultural capital. Anom learned his craft from his father, who in turn learned it from his father.

Ida Bagus Padang Rata (no relation to Ida Bagus Anom) showed us a fearsome Barong mask. It was well done, but it didn't move us. After 17 years of sizing up masks, we've become mighty picky.

"Uh, where does Ida Bagus Anom live?" I asked Padang Rata.

"Right over there," he said, pointing to a house nearby.

We found Anom in the same spot where we had encountered him in 1991, sitting on a covered patio near a pile of wood shavings, quietly carving and chatting with several of his assistants.

Anom, 56, didn't seem to remember us, perhaps because my hair is a bit grayer now, so Freddi and I introduced ourselves, then Gabriela. We told him how thoroughly we enjoyed our masks. Breaking into a huge smile, he took us back to his studio where the walls were covered with masks, all for sale.

"You'll see that some of the styles and designs have changed since you were here last," Anom told us in fluent English.

Yes, I had noticed; Anom had fewer traditional masks, depicting characters such as kings and queens and prime ministers, who play key roles in some Balinese dances.

He explained that while he still produces a full range of traditional masks for local dance troupes, his focus now is on characters who have greater appeal to foreigners.

"Like this one," Anom said, strapping on a mask that depicts a yawning clown. "And this one," he said, suddenly turning himself into a green, bug-eyed frog.

"Masks are like psychotherapy," Anom said. "You put them on and you feel different. A psychiatrist I know from the United States has bought masks from me to put on her patients. She said it transforms them."

Our collection includes many kinds of masks, including some, like Anom's frog, that were made to hang on collectors' walls and others that have been "danced," collector-speak for masks that actually have been worn by local people in rituals or festivals.

"I put 40 coats of paint on my masks," Anom told us. "I'll sandpaper them, put 20 coats on, then sandpaper them again and put another 20 coats on. All of my masks are made from pule, a wood that's light so the masks won't be heavy when you put them your face."

Masks have been essential elements of Balinese rituals for centuries. In his 1937 book "Island of Bali," renowned Mexican painter and frequent Bali visitor Miguel Covarrubias wrote that masks used in the Barong dance, for example, "have great power in themselves and are kept out of sight in a special shed in the death temple of the village. They are put away in a basket, wrapped in magic cloth that insulates their evil vibrations, and are uncovered only when actually in use, when the performer-medium is in a trance and under the control of a priest." In Bali, like everywhere else, master craftsmen such as Anom could disappear if their work isn't embraced by new generations. I asked Anom about the future of mask making on the island.

"We'll be OK," he said. "There are many younger people in Bali who are carving. And there is demand. We have so many dance troupes here. And there's also demand from tourists. The tourist industry here is doing well."

A picturesque town built around rivers, valleys and rice paddies, Ubud was indeed buzzing the week we visited in August. Traditional masked dance performances were playing to standing-room-only audiences, and reservations were necessary at many restaurants. Most of the tourists seemed to come from Australia, Japan and Europe.

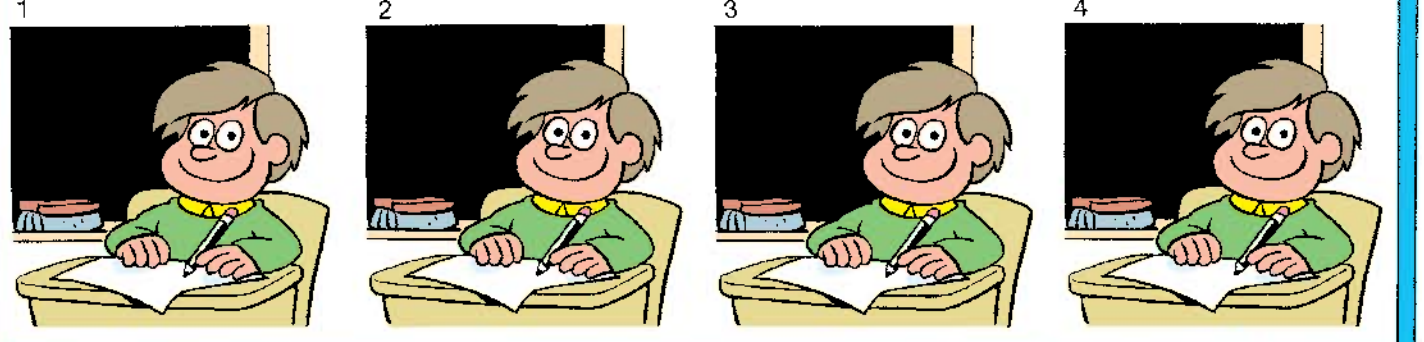
Like the rest of Bali, Ubud seems to have recovered from the tourism meltdown that followed terrorist attacks on the island's beach communities in 2002 and 2005. Tourism industry officials here were buoyed by the U.S. State Department's decision in May to discontinue its travel warning, which urged Americans to defer nonessential travel to Indonesia.

"After both of the attacks, everyone in Bali was sitting around like this," Anom said, folding his arms, dropping his head and making a sad face that looked like one of his masks. "But now we're almost back to normal."

We left Anom's studio with seven masks, averaging about $90 apiece. We visited several other mask makers that week, but none had the style of Anom. Just as the cabbie told us that long-ago summer morning, he's the best that Bali has to offer.

Bob Weber Jr's Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

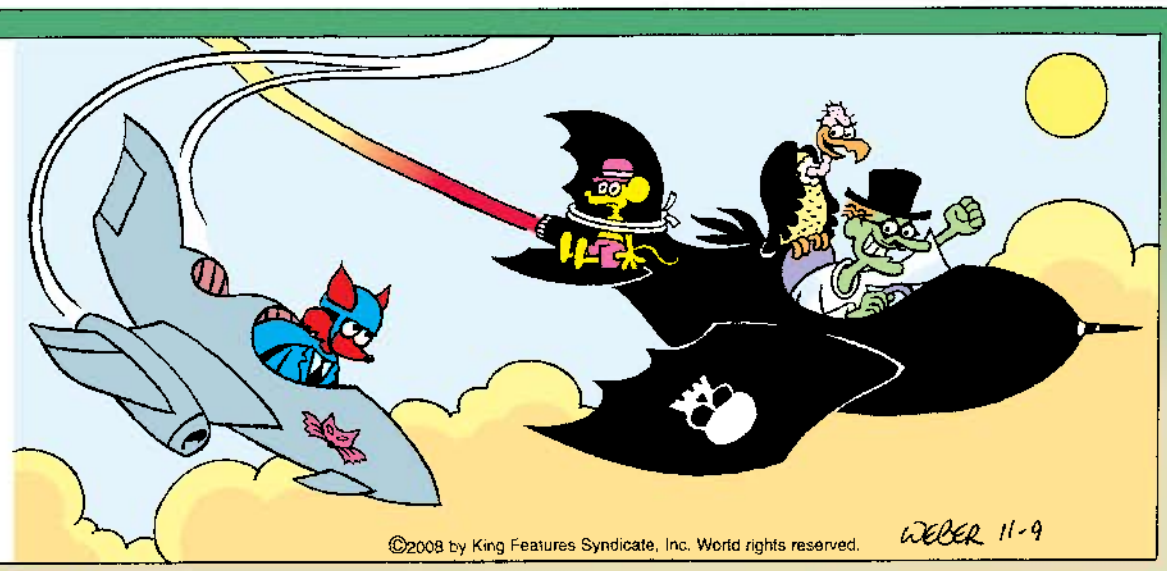
Which two scenes are exactly alike?



Answer -- Numbers two and four.

Count Weirdly captured Max Mouse and is flying him to his newest castle lair. The castle is located in a country that contains more active volcanoes than any other country on Earth. If Slylock Fox follows the twisted count, in which country will he eventually land?

Solution -- Slylock will land in Indonesia, a country with at least 129 active volcanoes.



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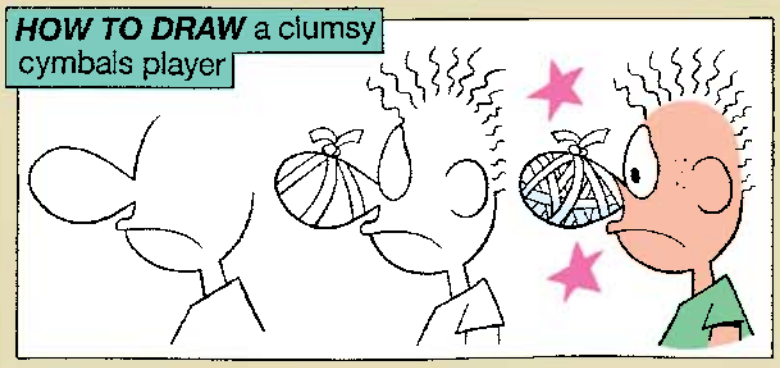
WEBER 11-9

HOW TO DRAW a clumsy cymbals player



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Amanda Peterson, age 12, of Sacramento, CA

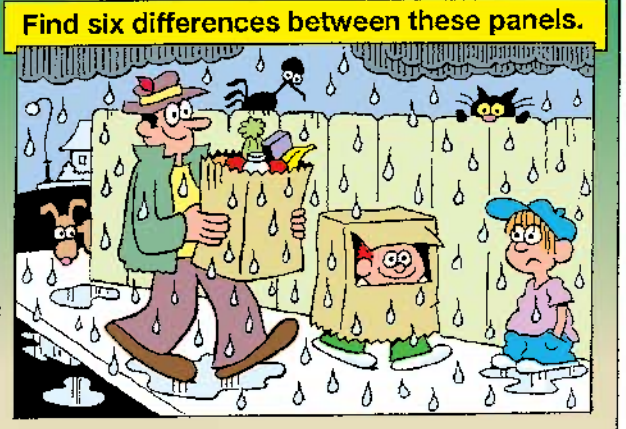
Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

The world's first commercial jet airliner went into service in ...

a) 1927
b) 1946
c) 1952
d) 1960

Answer -- c)

Find six differences between these panels.

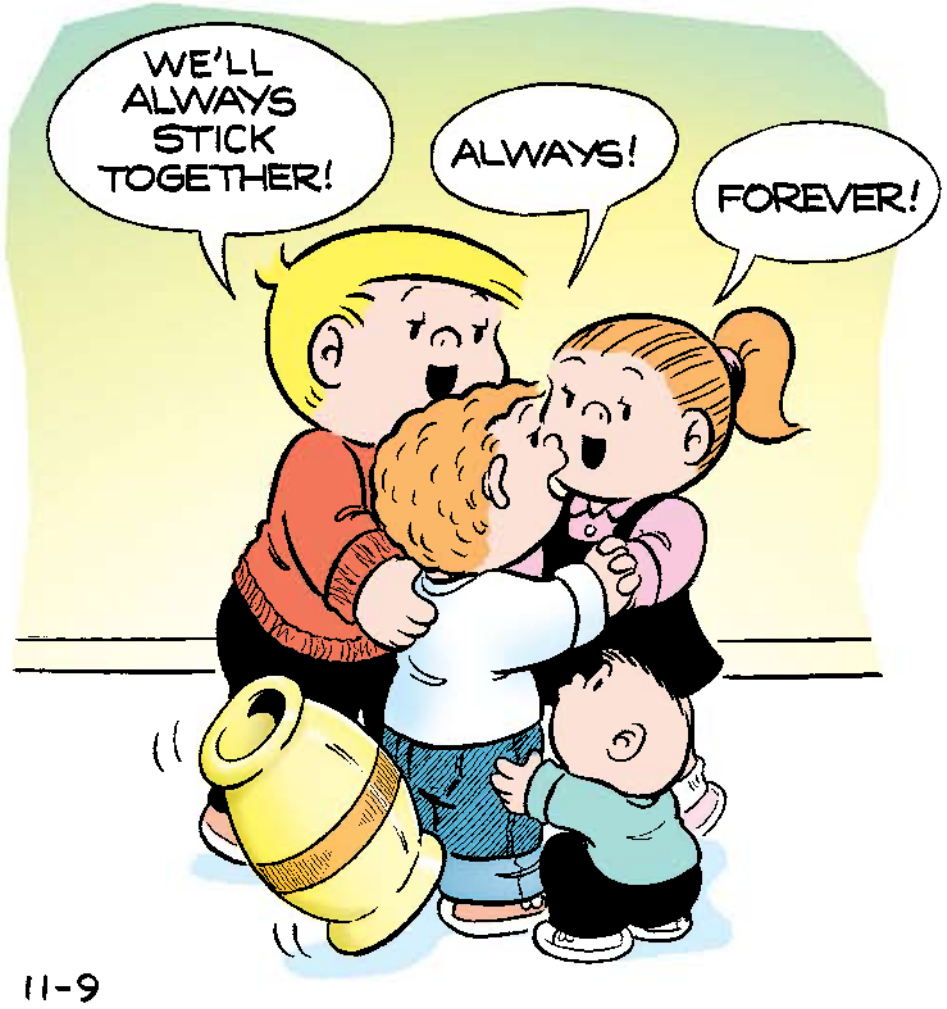


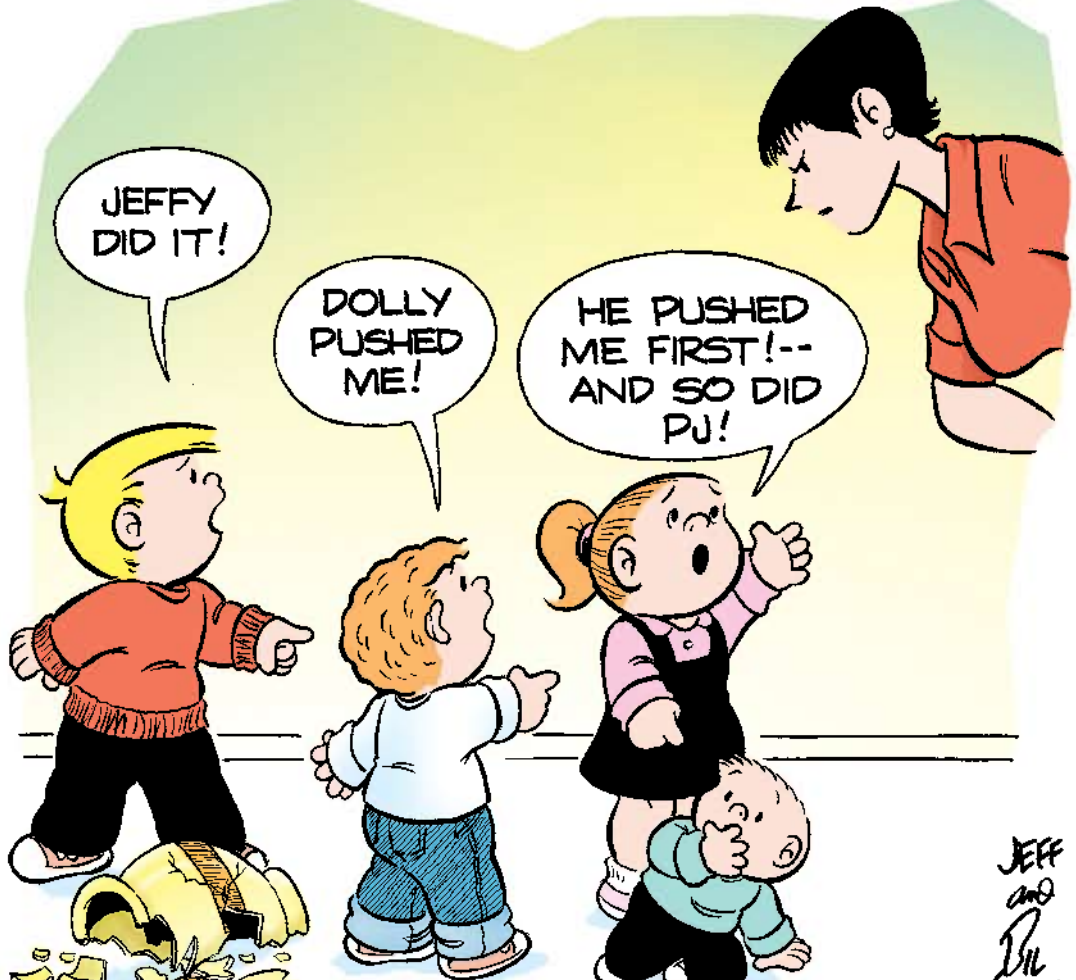
Answer -- Bird, hat, finger, puddle, dog and whiskers.

The fourth ***Find The Six Differences*** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six differences No. 4** P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane





11-9

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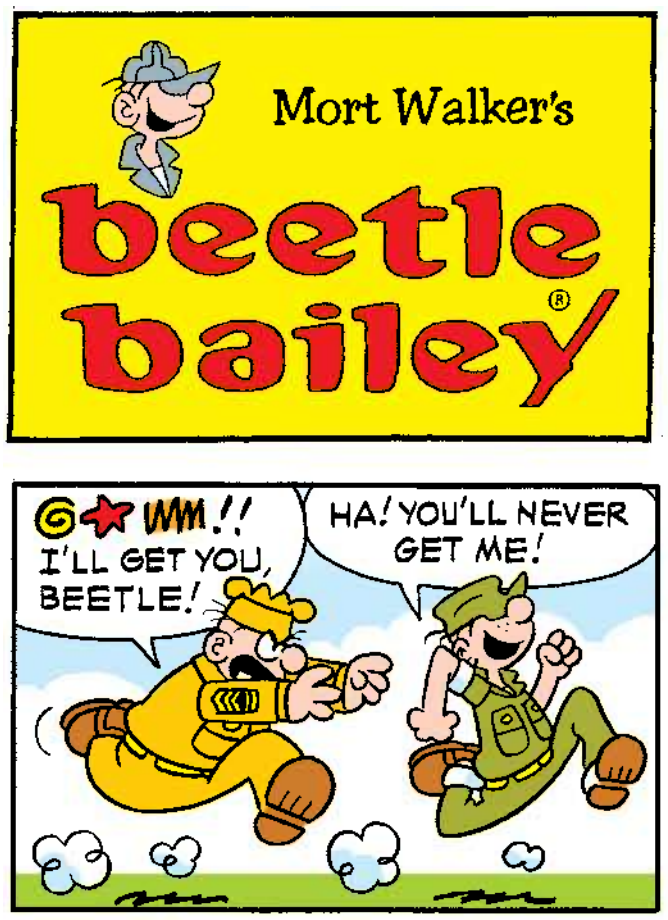
WWW.FAMILYCIRCUS.COM

Jeff and Bil Keane

Mort Walker's
beetle bailey®


I'LL BET IF I SAID ANYTHING TO YOU YOU'D SAY "NO!"
NO, I WOULDN'T
YOU DRIVE ME CRAZY!
WHY DON'T YOU WALK INSTEAD OF DRIVE, THEN?
GRRR!! I'LL GET YOU, BEETLE!
HA! YOU'LL NEVER GET ME!
I CAN RUN CIRCLES AROUND YOU!
I CAN EVEN OUTRUN YOU DOING CARTWHEELS!

I'LL GET YOU!
YOU CAN'T EVEN GET ME WHEN I RUN BACKWARDS!
11-9
WWW.MORTWALKER.COM
THUMP!
HOW DID YOU GET HIM?
I JUST LET HIM SELF-DESTRUCT
GREG+ MORT WALKER
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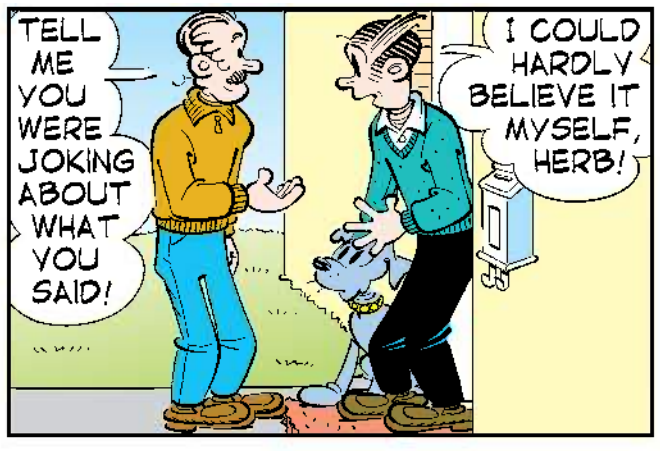
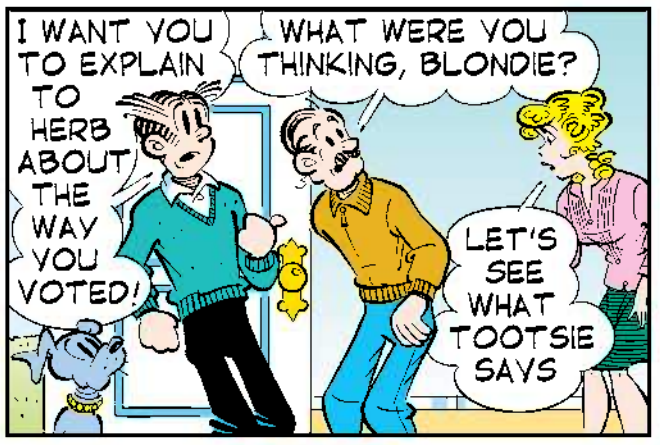
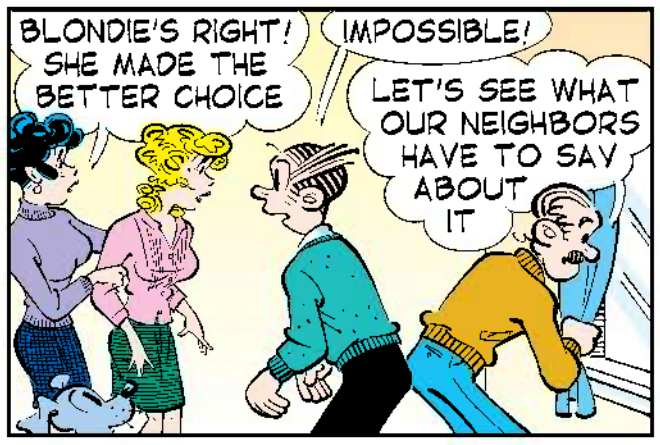
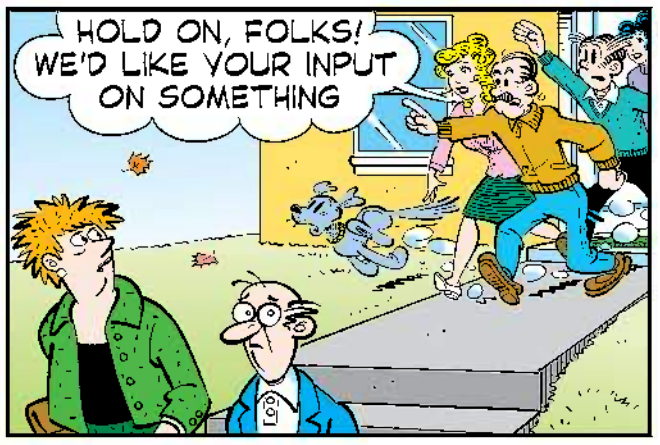
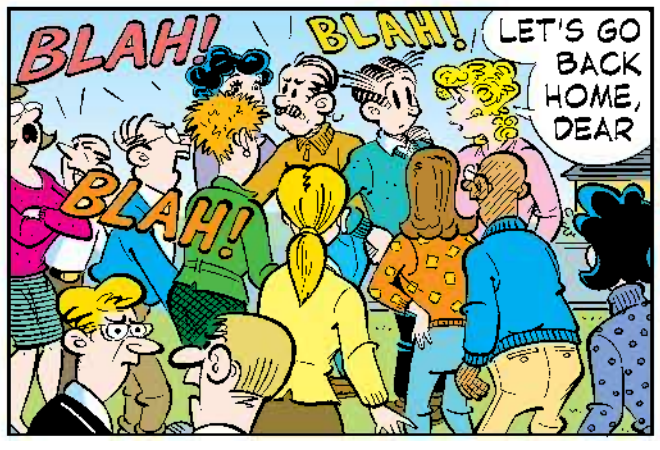
BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

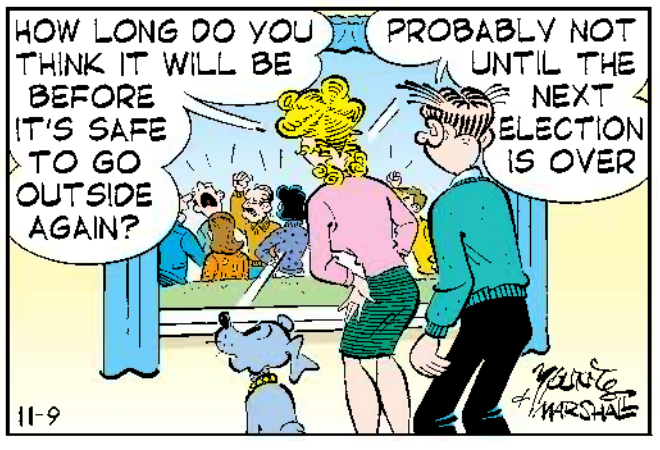

TELL ME YOU WERE JOKING ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID!
I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT MYSELF, HERB!
MAYBE SHE WAS ONLY KIDDING AROUND WITH YOU
I DON'T KNOW! SPOOKY, ISN'T IT?!





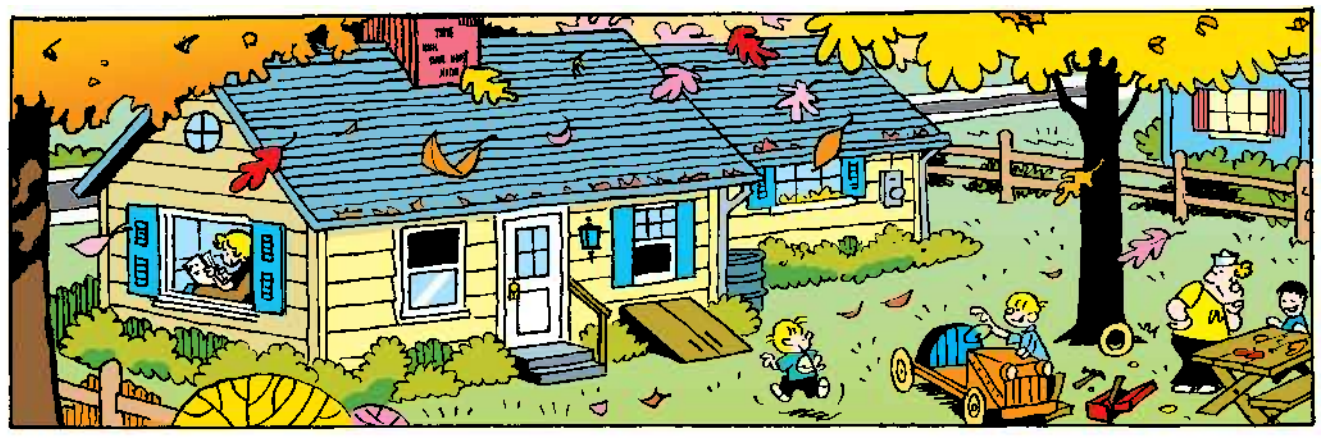


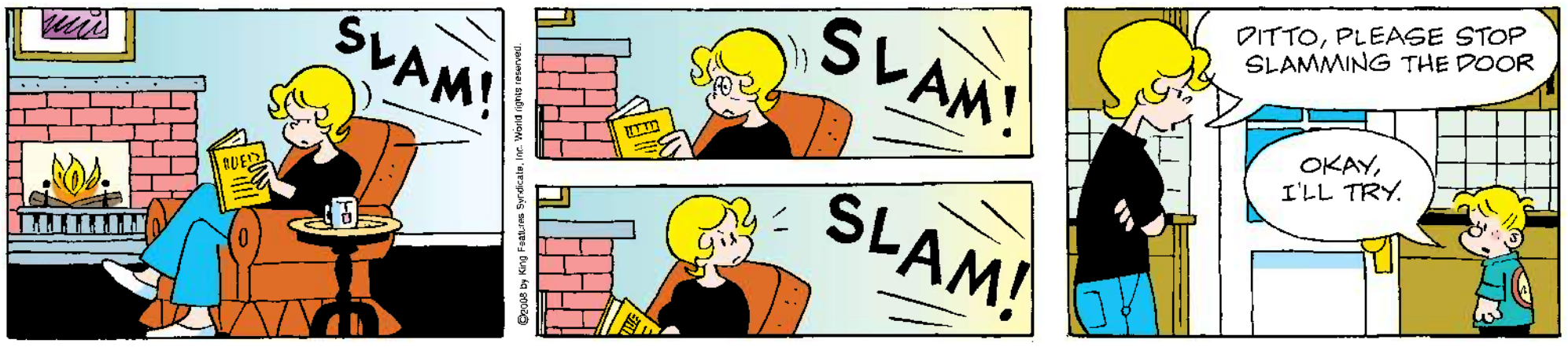




Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER





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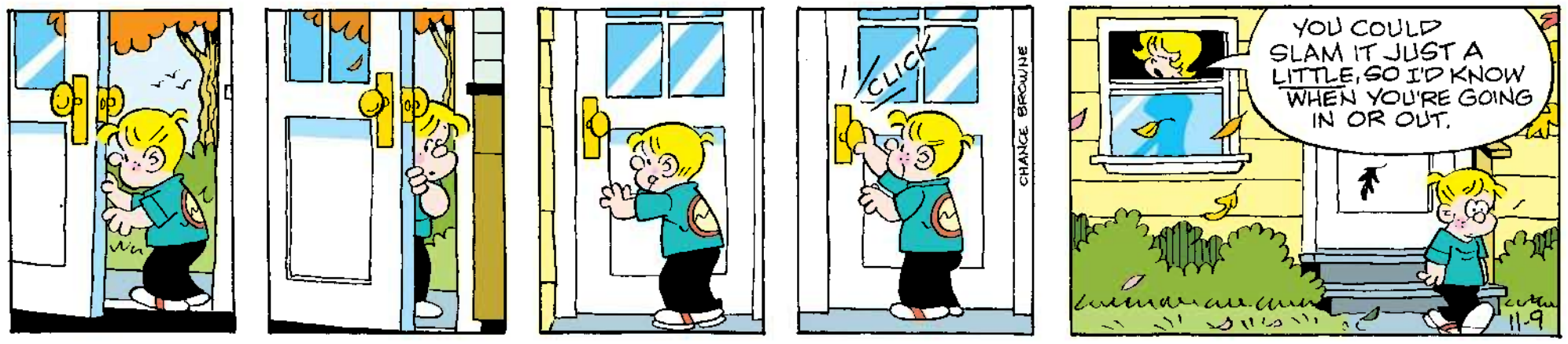
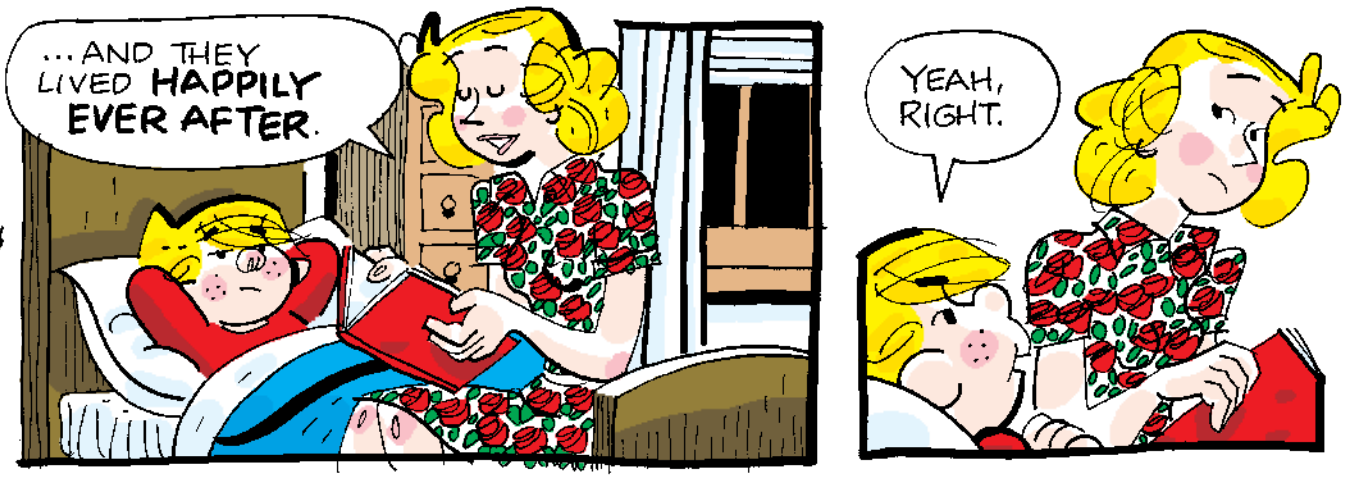
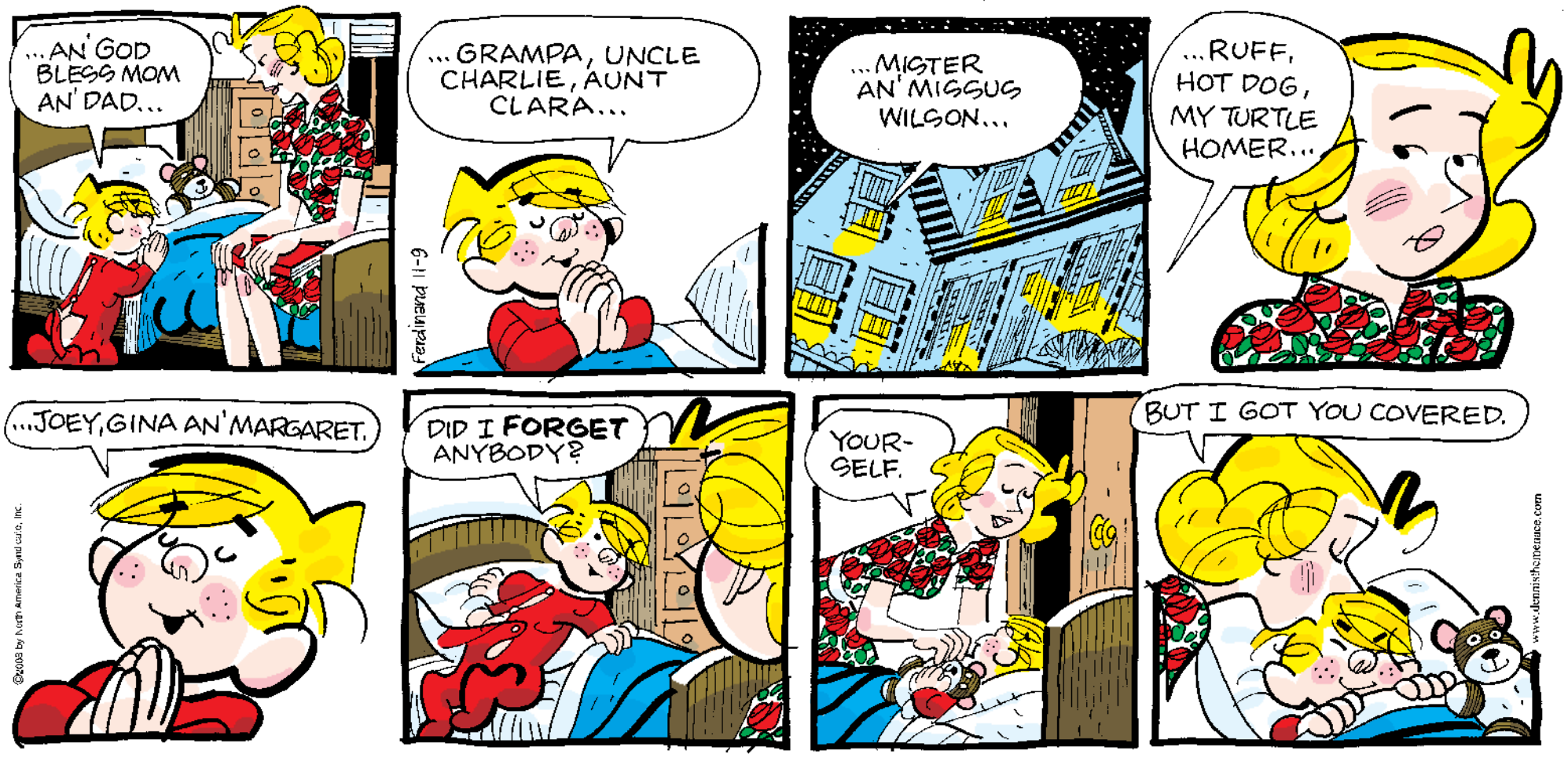


Hank Ketcham's

Dennis the Menace

Count Your Blessings




...AN' GOD BLESS MOM AN' DAD...
...GRAMPA, UNCLE CHARLIE, AUNT CLARA...
...MISTER AN' MISSUS WILSON...
...RUFF, HOT DOG, MY TURTLE HOMER...
...JOEY, GINA AN' MARGARET.
DID I FORGET ANYBODY?
YOUR-SELF.
BUT I GOT YOU COVERED.
Ferdinand 11-9

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www.dennisthemenace.com

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
WREN! JUST THE GIRL I WANTED TO SEE!
HERE YOU GO.
WELL...?
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? CHEW! TEAR! DROOL! DROOL! DROOL!
ZOE, PICK UP YOUR SPELLING WORKSHEET AND GET BUSY.
SIGH!
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING RUINED RIGHT, YOU'VE GOT TO RUIN IT YOURSELF.
THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY MOTTO.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT 11-9

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You enjoy the attention early in the week, but it might be a good idea to opt for some privacy by week's end so that you can have more time to consider an upcoming decision.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You unearth some surprising facts. Now you need to consider how to use them to your advantage. Meanwhile, it might be best to keep what you've learned secret for now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A comment by a colleague piques your curiosity to know more. Best advice: You'll find people more likely to offer information if you're discreet when making your inquiries.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your energy levels begin to rise by midweek. This allows you to catch up with your heavy workload and still have plenty of get-up-and-go to go out on the town this weekend.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You're probably roaring your head off about a perceived slight from a longtime critic. Ignore it. That person might just be trying to goad you into doing something you might later regret.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The early part of the week is open to spontaneity. Then it's time to settle into your usual routine to get all your tasks done. A personal situation could require more attention from you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A meeting of the minds on a workplace project might well develop into something more personal for Librans looking for romance. Aspects are also favorable for platonic relationships.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A more-positive mood might be difficult to assume in light of a recent problem involving the health of someone special. But by week's end, your emotional barometer should start to rise.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Look for a changed attitude from a former adversary once he or she realizes you have your colleagues' full support. Now you can refocus your energies on that workplace project.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This time, a difference of opinion might not be resolved in your favor. But be patient. It could all ultimately work out to your advantage, as new information begins to develop.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A tug of war develops between the artistic Aquarian's creative aspect and his or her practical side. Best advice: Prioritize your schedule so you can give appropriate time to both.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You could be entering a career phase awash with job-related demands. But avoid being swamped by the overflow and, instead, keep treading water as you deal with demands one by one.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are an exceptionally loyal person, and you're respected for your ability to keep the secrets entrusted to you.

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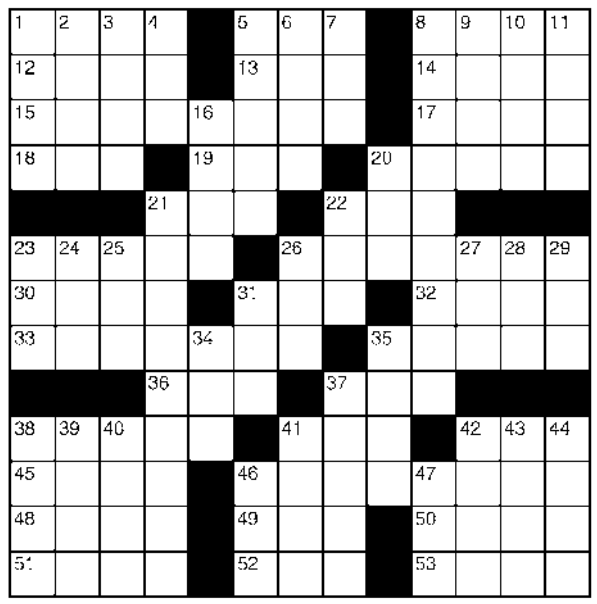
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Oxidation result
5 Police officer
8 Runs for exercise
12 Neighborhood
13 Kyoto cummerbund
14 Lotion additive
15 Scouts' festival
17 Carriage
18 Clay, now
19 Jailer's implement
20 Scrub a NASA mission
21 Pickle container
22 Bikini half
23 English composition
26 Get back
30 Paper quantity
31 Get a glimpse of
32 Helper
33 "Nobody - the Spanish Inquisition!"
35 "Don Juan" writer
36 Sauce source
37 Shell-game need
38 Seabird of the gannet family
41 Snip
42 Historic time
45 Therefore
46 Kingston resident
48 Fix a hole
49 Cleopatra's slayer
50 Midi terminus
51 Coaster
52 Petrol
53 Stereo forerunner

DOWN
1 Eastern prince
2 Kazakhstan river
3 Half (Pref.)
4 Paper doll's dress feature
5 Apple gizmo
6 Do what you're told
7 Chart format
8 New Orleans recipe
9 Medley
10 No stay-at-home
11 Faxed
16 Suitable
20 Curved line
21 Daniel Craig role
22 Spelldown
23 Before
24 Gender
25 Tree fluid
26 In medias -
27 Melody
28 Altar affirmative
29 Chaps
31 Pigs' digs
34 Coquettish
35 Alpha follower
37 Some women's shoes
38 Hospital furniture
39 By word of mouth
40 Shrek is one
41 House, to Jose
42 Reverberation
43 Picnic hamperer
44 Domini preceder
46 Binge
47 Tenet

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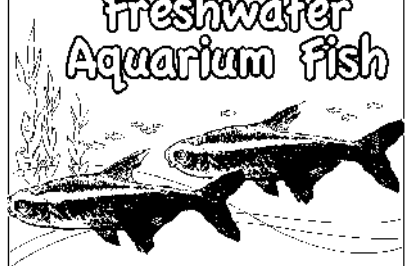
top ten

Freshwater Aquarium Fish



1. Neon tetras
2. Angelfish
3. Male Fantail Guppies
4. Goldfish
5. Mollies
6. Bettas
7. Kissing Gourami
8. Oscars
9. Rainbow Fish
10. Tiger Barbs

Source: cheappetstore.com

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

United Sates

Obama: Economic challenge greatest in lifetime

CHICAGO (AP)—The financial crisis dominated the first news conference held by President-elect Barack Obama, who assembled his economic team and called on Congress to pass an economic stimulus program.

Obama's eagerly-anticipated pick for treasury secretary could be chosen from the cast of over a dozen economic luminaries who lined up behind him at the press conference Friday, including Lawrence Summers, who held the post in the Clinton administration and served as president of Harvard University. Obama offered no hints about who would get the job, but said cabinet positions would be chosen with "deliberate haste."

Obama said Congress must pass an economic stimulus package either before or just after he takes office in January, and that unemployment benefits need to be extended. He vowed to tackle the financial meltdown quickly and directly.

"Immediately after I become president I will confront this economic crisis head-on by taking all necessary steps to ease the credit crisis, help hardworking families, and restore growth and prosperity," Obama said.

He deferred, however, to President George W. Bush and his economic team on major decisions that will be made before he takes office.

"The United States has only one government and one president at a time," Obama said.

Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden met privately with economic experts to discuss ways to stabilize the troubled economy. Obama spoke for 20 minutes from a podium that said "the Office of the President Elect" at a hotel in his home town, as Biden, the advisers and Obama's new chief of staff, Rep. Rahm Emanuel, stood behind him.

AP PHOTO/CHARLES DHARAPAK

President-elect Obama answers a question during a news conference in Chicago, Friday, Nov. 7, 2008. From left are, Vice President-elect Joe Biden, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker and Chief of Staff-designate Rahm Emanuel.

Friday brought more evidence of a recession, as the government reported that the unemployment rate had jumped from 6.1 percent in September to 6.5 percent in October. Despite dour third-quarter reports from Ford and General Motors, stocks rose some after two days of heavy losses.

Obama's transition to the White House and early days in office, if not his first year as president, almost certainly will be devoted to reviving the dismal economy.

He said he would focus on producing jobs and he mentioned helping the auto industry and small business and aid for state and local governments so they aren't forced to lay off workers or raise taxes.

"Some of the choices that we're going to make are going to be difficult," Obama said. "It is not going to be quick. It's not going to be easy for us to dig ourselves out of the hole that we are in." But he said he was confident the country could do it.

Obama also left the door open to the possibility economic conditions might prompt him to change his tax plan that would give a break to most families but raise taxes on those making more than $250,000 annually.

"I think that the plan that we've put forward is the right one, but, obviously, over the next several weeks and months, we're going to be continuing to take a look at the data and see what's taking place in the economy as a whole," Obama said.

Obama told reporters that he's confident that "a new president can have an enormous impact."

At one point, Obama flashed some self-deprecating humor while answering a question about a pet dog he has promised his daughters to smooth their move to Washington. He said his family is looking for one that will not trigger his daughter Malia's allergies. Ideally, he said it would come from an animal rescue shelter, but "obviously, a lot of shelter dogs are mutts like me."

Obama, who will be the first black president, was referring to his own heritage: Obama's father was from Kenya, his mother was from Kansas.

On other topics, Obama said:

■ He will review a letter from Iran's leader and respond appropriately. It's not something "that we should simply do in a knee-jerk fashion," he said. Obama said he wants to be careful to send the signal to the world that "I'm not the president and I won't be until Jan. 20."

■ He will move with all "deliberate haste" to fill Cabinet posts. He said when he chose Emanuel as chief of staff: "We thought it through" and he wants to do the same with other top appointees to avoid making mistakes.

ACROSS THE NATION

Palin denounces her critics as cowardly

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin called her critics cowards and jerks Friday for deriding her anonymously and insisted she never asked for the expensive wardrobe purchased for her use on the presidential campaign. "I never asked for anything more than a Diet Dr. Pepper once in a while," Palin said as she returned to the governor's office from her two-month odyssey as the GOP vice presidential nominee. She said the Republican National Committee paid for the tens of thousands of dollars in designer clothes and accessories. "Those are the RNC's clothes. They're not my clothes. I never forced anybody to buy anything," she said. Republican Party lawyers are still trying to determine exactly what clothing was purchased for Palin at such high-end stores as Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus, what was returned and what has become of the rest.

Obama apologizes to Nancy Reagan for seance remark

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Obama called Nancy Reagan on Friday to apologize for joking that she held seances in the White House. At a news conference in Chicago, Obama said he had spoken with all the living presidents as he prepares to take office in January. Then he smiled and said, "I didn't want to get into a Nancy Reagan thing about doing any seances." The 87-year-old former first lady had consulted with astrologers during her husband's presidency. But she did not hold conversations with the dead. Obama spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said the president-elect later called Mrs. Reagan "to apologize for the careless and offhanded remark." She said Obama "expressed his admiration and affection for Mrs. Reagan that so many Americans share, and they had a warm conversation."

Fears of Democrat crackdown lead to gun sales boom

MIDLOTHIAN, Va. (AP)—Gun enthusiasts nationwide are stocking up on firearms out of fears that the combination of an Obama administration and a Democrat-dominated Congress will result in tough new gun laws. "I think they're going to really try to crack down on guns and make it harder for people to try to purchase them," said Rachel Smith, 32, who taught all five of her children—ages 4 to 10—to shoot because the family relies on game for food. Last month, as an Obama win looked increasingly inevitable, there were more than 108,000 more background checks for gun purchases than in October 2007, a 15 percent increase. And they were up about 8 percent for the year as of Oct. 26, according to the FBI.

Son: Billy Graham's work with presidents is ending

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Billy Graham's work as a pastor to presidents is coming to an end, but he is praying for Barack Obama as the nation's next leader begins his work, Graham's son said Friday on the ailing evangelist's 90th birthday. Franklin Graham said in an interview that his father's mind remains sharp even as his body continues to fail. But the preacher who has counseled every president beginning with Eisenhower is not in line to mentor Obama. "My father feels like his time and day for that is over," Franklin Graham said. "But he would certainly like to meet (Obama) and pray with him." Graham's views of the world are still respected in White House circles.

Utah faces boycott after Mormon work for Prop 8

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Utah's growing tourism industry and the star-studded Sundance Film Festival are being targeted for a boycott by bloggers, gay rights activists and others seeking to punish the Mormon church for its aggressive promotion of California's ban on gay marriage. It could be a heavy price to pay. Tourism brings in $6 billion a year to Utah, with world-class skiing, a spectacular red rock country and the film festival founded by Robert Redford, among other popular tourist draws. "At a fundamental level, the Utah Mormons crossed the line on this one," said gay rights activist John Aravosis, an influential blogger in Washington, D.C. "They just took marriage away from 20,000 couples and made their children bastards," he said. "You don't do that and get away with it."

Army general to investigate recruiter suicides

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The Army has agreed to investigate a disproportionate cluster of suicides among recruiters in an East Texas battalion, as well as allegations by other soldiers and family members that they were pressured to cover up serious problems in the battalion, Army Secretary Pete Geren said. Seventeen Army recruiters have committed suicide nationwide since 2001, but four of them were from the Houston Recruiting Battalion, which recruits soldiers from East Texas. A fifth Houston-area soldier killed himself, but he was assigned to the Army's Future Soldier Training Program. There are 38 recruiting battalions nationwide with 8,400 recruiters. The Army's suicide rate has been climbing as the war in Iraq has forced multiple and longer deployments.

Running on fumes: GM could soon run out of cash

DETROIT (AP)—The American auto industry is running on fumes. General Motors, the nation's largest automaker, warned Friday that it may run out of money by the end of the year after piling up billions in third-quarter losses and burning through cash at an alarming rate. Ford sustained heavy losses, too.

The situation is so severe, GM has suspended talks to acquire Chrysler and is appealing to the government for help as the slumping economy drags cars sales to their lowest level in a quarter century.

GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner said the company will "take every action" possible to avoid bankruptcy.

"We're convinced that the consequences of bankruptcy would be dire," he said, adding that the company would use every source of potential funding. "We need to find a way to get through this, and that's really our focus," he said.

GM also planned more job cuts, including another 5,500 salaried and factory workers. But company officials cautioned that those measures alone would not be enough and that federal aid is essential.

Ford saw its cash supply decline rapidly and announced its own job cuts Friday. But it's in better shape because the company borrowed billions of dollars in 2007 by mortgaging its factories. The Dearborn-based manufacturer said it had enough cash to make it through 2010.

Asia

AP PHOTO/SHERIN ZADA

A view of police building damaged by last night's suicide attack in Mingora in troubled district of Swat on Friday, Nov. 7, 2008 in Pakistan. A suicide car bomber rammed his vehicle into a checkpoint manned by security forces near a police compound, killing at least two paramilitary troops and wounding at least 20 other people, officials said.

Pakistan: 13 killed in US strike

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected U.S. missile targeting a Taliban commander killed 13 people near the Afghan border Friday, a sign that America's new general for the region is not heeding Islamabad's pleas for a halt to the strikes.

There has been a surge in U.S. cross-border attacks since August, angering Pakistani officials who say the raids violate the nuclear-armed country's sovereignty and undermine its anti-terror war in the border region.

Repairing strained ties while keeping the pressure on al-Qaida and Taliban commanders leaders hiding in the lawless frontier area will be a key challenge for Barack Obama when he becomes U.S. president in January.

The latest attack took place in Kam Sam village in North Waziristan region, a stronghold for militants blamed for killing U.S. troops in Afghanistan and suicide blasts within Pakistan.

A Pakistani intelligence official said an agent who visited the village reported that 13 suspected militants were killed. The official said the targeted house belonged to a Taliban commander and that authorities were working to determine the identities of the dead.

A government representative in the region also put the death toll at 13. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Militants free nurse held hostage in RP

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked militants have freed a nurse they held hostage for four months in the southern Philippines after her family paid a ransom, officials said Saturday.

Regional police commander Chief Superintendent Bensali Jabarani said members of the Abu Sayyaf group handed over Preciosa Feliciano late Friday to provincial authorities on the island province of Basilan near the southern port city of Zamboanga.

Gunmen snatched the 24-year-old nurse in July and took her by boat to Basilan. Her family said she was missing for a week until the kidnappers called asking for ransom.

The victim's elder brother, Ben Feliciano, has told reporters the family paid 2 million pesos ($40,000) to the kidnappers. The family also gave them a motorcycle and an M-16 rifle, he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese police attacked by angry residents

BEIJING (AP)—Protesters attacked a police station in southern China on Friday, blaming a traffic officer for a crash that killed a motorcycle rider, a state news agency reported. Traffic police set up a checkpoint Friday morning to catch illegal motorists in Shenzhen, a city that borders Hong Kong, the Xinhua News Agency reported. When the motorcyclist, Li Guochao, tried to drive past the checkpoint without stopping an employee of the traffic post threw a radio at Li, who lost control and hit the pole. Li, 31, later died of his injuries, Xinhua said. Li's family carried his body to a local police station, Xinhua said. About two hours later, some 400 protesters gathered at the station, threw stones and set fire to a police car as about 2,000 spectators watched, the report said. The violence lasted until early Saturday.

Thai intellectual arrested on anti-monarchy charge

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—One of Thailand's most prominent intellectuals has been arrested on a charge of insulting the country's monarchy, an offense that could send the 75-year-old to prison for 15 years, his lawyer said Friday. Sulak Sivaraksa, 75, was arrested Thursday for remarks made during a speech he gave in December last year to mark International Human Rights Day, lawyer Somchai Homla-or said. Sulak denied the charges and was freed on bail, the lawyer said. Insulting the monarchy, known as the crime of "lese majeste," carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison. Sulak has been arrested several times before on lese majeste charges, but was never convicted, Somchai said.

Maori Party may hold key in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's indigenous Maori minority went into elections Saturday inspired by Barack Obama's victory in the United States and with a chance of securing the balance of power at home. Obama's election as the United States' first African-American president reverberated across the world as a triumph over old stereotypes, a chord that rang especially true for minority groups. "I think that's a message to the whole world, that we can build on our past and move forward. I think America has done that," said Pita Sharples, co-leader of the Maori Party, New Zealand's only all-indigenous political party. Maori account for 15 percent of New Zealand's 3.4 million population and are its poorest, worst-housed and least-healthy citizens, suffering higher unemployment and crime rates than most others.

World

Deaths in Haiti school collapse mount to 30

PETIONVILLE, Haiti (AP)—A hillside school where roughly 500 students usually crowded into several floors collapsed during classes on Friday, killing at least 30 people and injuring many more. Rescuers used bare hands to pull bleeding students from the wreckage.

More children were believed buried in the rubble of the concrete building, and the death toll was likely to go higher, Yphosiane Vil, an civil protection official, told The Associated Press at the scene.

Neighbors suspected the building was poorly rebuilt after it partially collapsed eight years ago, said Jimmy Germain, a French teacher at the school. He said people who lived just downhill abandoned their land out of fear that the building would tumble onto them, and that the school's owner tried to buy up their vacated properties.

AP

A person caught in the rubble is helped out after a school collapsed in Petionville, Haiti, Friday.

The concrete building's third story was still under construction, and Petionville Mayor Claire Lydie Parent told the AP she suspects a structural defect caused the collapse, not the recent rains.

Police commissioner Francene Moreau says the minister who runs the church-operated school could face criminal charges.

Parent said roughly 500 students from kindergarten through high school attend the school, College La Promesse, in the hills above Port-au-Prince. She did not know how many were inside when it collapsed late Friday morning.

The aid group Doctors Without Borders pulled out 85 people, half with life-threatening injuries, said Max Cosci, director of the group's Belgian contingent in Haiti.

Volunteers arrived with shovels and axes and said they would try to deliver water to others trapped inside.

Blinded pilot guided safely to ground

LONDON (AP)—A British pilot who was suddenly blinded by a stroke during a solo flight was talked safely down by a military pilot, the Royal Air Force said Friday.

Jim O'Neill asked for help after he was went blind 40 minutes into a flight from Scotland to southeastern England last week. The BBC reported that O'Neill, flying a small Cessna aircraft, lost his sight 5,500 feet in the air.

"It was terrifying," O'Neill said. "Suddenly, I couldn't see the dials in front of me."

The air force said in a news release that O'Neill initially believed he'd been "dazzled" by bright sunlight, and made an emergency call for help. He then realized that something more serious was happening, and said, "I want to land, ASAP."

RAF Wing Commander Paul Gerrard was just finishing a training flight nearby and was drafted in to help the stricken pilot.

Gerrard located the plane, began flying close to it and radioed directions.

"For me, I was just glad to help a fellow aviator in distress," he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Category 3 storm eyes Cuba

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP)—Late-season Hurricane Paloma strengthened into a Category 3 storm as it lashed the Cayman Islands with wind and rain Friday, knocking down trees and signs. The storm was expected to lose some strength overnight before punching Cuba's midsection on Saturday, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Cuba already is suffering from billions of dollars in damage from two previous hurricanes this season. The Cayman Islands government asked all hotels to remove guests from the ground and first floors. Nearly 40 people were already staying in the islands' seven shelters.

Mexico: Former senior official under investigation

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico detained a former senior police official Friday as it investigates alleged high-level corruption within security forces battling powerful drug cartels. The announcement came on another day of extreme violence in Mexico. In the northeast, police mistakenly opened fire on a family of six, seriously wounding a teenage girl. In the west, inmates rioted, killing six. And police in Tijuana found three more bodies accompanied by messages that appeared to be from drug traffickers. Rodolfo de la Guardia Garcia, the No. 2 official in the Federal Agency of Investigation from 2003-2005, has been placed under house arrest for 40 days as investigators look into the possibility he leaked information to the Sinaloa cartel in return for monthly payments in dollars.

African leaders slam Congo peacekeepers

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—African leaders criticized the world's largest United Nations peacekeeping force Friday for failing to protect civilians and end the violence that is convulsing eastern Congo and threatening to spread. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon acknowledged the 17,000 troops were "stretched to the limit." He spoke in Nairobi at a summit with African leaders that included Congolese President Joseph Kabila and Rwandan President Paul Kagame. Officials said rebel leader Laurent Nkunda, who's spearheading the Congo offensive, was not invited. Both sides have been accused of killing civilians. New York-based Human Rights Watch said at least 100 have died, while others say the civilian toll is undetermined.

Focus

SOCCER GAMES, SLEEPOVERS AND GRANDMA

Obamas get ready to move into White House

By DEANNA BELLANDI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—President-elect Barack Obama's 10-year-old daughter Malia is looking forward to decorating her new room, and already there's talk of sleepovers at the White House.

Michelle Obama has turned her attention to schools, asking Washington staff members and friends about what might be the best fit for Malia and 7-year-old Sasha.

And Grandma, a lifelong Chicago resident, is preparing to pick up and move to Washington to help shuttle the girls to soccer games and recitals.

Since Election Day, much of the attention has been on the government transition, but there is family transition unfolding, too, as the president-elect, his wife and daughters prepare for life at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

They will be putting their lives in boxes and adjusting like any other family set for a big move, except they will be doing it under the watchful eye of the media and the Secret Service.

Before the election, 71-year-old Marian Robinson, Michelle's mother, told The Associated Press that she would be a big part of keeping her granddaughters grounded.

"I will do whatever Michelle needs simply because I know how important it is for her to see that the children ... still have discipline and still have things that children do at their disposal," Robinson said. She plans to move to Washington, though the timing and where she will live remain unclear.

The Obamas worked hard during the campaign to make sure life stayed as normal as possible for their girls. They plan to keep their Chicago home, a $1.65 million mansion in a well-to-do South Side neighborhood near the University of Chicago.

"This has been their anchor," said longtime friend Cindy Moelis.

Barricades were erected long ago along two streets running past his home, but the restricted zone got bigger after his election. Residents must show ID to get onto his street. Neighbors inside the zone have to wait about an hour to receive deliveries from Medici on 57th, a local restaurant and Obama haunt.

Agents carrying guns also escort the family wherever they go. But the family had time to get used to the heightened security during the campaign.

To prepare the girls for the big move to the nation's capital, the Obamas had talked to them about what would happen if their father won the presidency. The girls had plenty of questions, including whether they would get to decorate their own rooms in the White House (the answer is yes).

Their parents also encouraged them to talk to their cousins, ages 14 and 11, about what it is like to move, start a new school and make new friends. Michelle's brother, Craig Robinson, is a college basketball coach who has moved around for his job. Robinson recently went to Oregon State after coaching at Brown University in Rhode Island.

The family plans for the Obama girls to keep up a full schedule of their favorite activities. For Malia that includes acting and soccer, while Sasha loves singing, dancing, playing the piano and tennis.

The transition is also sure to be made easier by a new family dog the Obamas have promised their daughters—a promise set in stone in Obama's acceptance speech. What breed they select is sure to be analyzed for its political meaning.

At his first post-election news conference Friday, Obama called the dog's selection a "major issue" in his household.

"We have two criteria that have to be reconciled. One is that Malia is allergic, so it has to be hypoallergenic," the president-elect said. "On the other hand, our preference would be to get a shelter dog, but a lot of shelter dogs are mutts like me."

The soon-to-be first lady has already started looking into schools for the girls, who now attend the private University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, where Malia is in fifth grade and Sasha is in second.

President George W. Bush's twin daughters were 19 when he became president, but President Bill Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, was 12 when she moved into the White House. Her parents sent her to the elite Washington private school Sidwell Friends. Jimmy Carter's daughter, Amy, who was 9 when her father took office in 1977, was sent to a public school. Caroline Kennedy was almost 4 when she moved into the executive mansion in 1961. She attended first grade in a makeshift third-floor classroom inside the White House.

Friends say having Robinson, who retired last year from her job as a bank executive secretary to help with her granddaughters, will be a comfort to the Obama girls.

While their parents pounded the campaign trail, Robinson took care of them, picking them up from school and shuttling them to play dates or other activities and making sure they were home in time for piano lessons. She will probably continue that role in Washington.

"There's nothing like Grandma," said Sandy Matthews, a close friend of Michelle Obama's.

Associated Press writers Beth Fouhy and Rupa Shenoy contributed to this report.

AP

In this Aug. 13, 2008, file photo, now President-elect Barack Obama walks down steps with his children and friends at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. As the first family prepares to move to Washington, Malia Obama, second from left, is looking forward to decorating her new room and already there's talk of sleepovers at the White House. Sasha Obama, center, holds hands with two unidentified friends.

An inauguration or an 'Obamarama'?

Election brings a lexicon change you can believe in

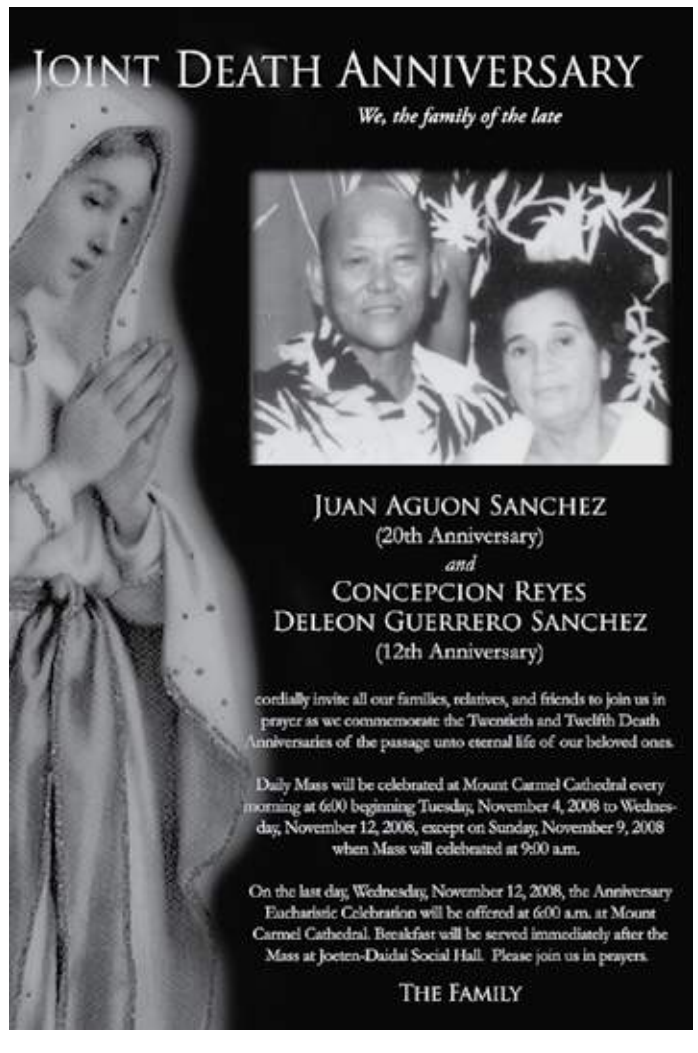
By WILLIAM J. KOLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

First there was "Obamamania," punctured in places by naysayers crying "Nobama!"

Now, as U.S. President-elect Barack Obama prepares for the White House, his message of change, resounding both at home and abroad, seems to have unleashed a barrage of Barackisms. Or maybe they should be called Obamanyms.

Here's a glossary, culled from Web sites, news reports and the blogosphere:

- **OBAMAPHORIA:** The postelection rapture that swept over Obama's supporters worldwide.
- **OBAMANATION:** A twist on "abomination," expressed by evangelicals and other conservatives who oppose Obama's stance on abortion, gay marriage and other social issues.
- **OBAMARAMA:** The celebrations around the Jan. 20, 2009, inauguration.
- **OBAMANOS:** A play on "Vamonos," or "Let's go," among Obama fans in Mexico.
- **OBAMATOPIA:** The political paradise that Obama's staunchest supporters hope he'll usher in.
- **OBAMALUJAH:** Exultation shouted by his fans.
- **OBAMATRONS:** The policy wonks who will occupy the West Wing of his White House.
- **OBAMASCOPE:** Media scrutiny of the new leader. (Example: "One hundred days after Barack Obama took office, newspaper editors put the president's economic plan under the Obamascope.")
- **OBAMANATOR:** Hollywood-inspired nickname for the new president—even if he's got what California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger contends are "skinny legs" and "scrawny little arms."
- **OBAMALICIOUS:** Complimentary term used by those who like Obama's looks.
- **OBAMALOHA:** Goodbye, Obama-style, with a nod to Hawaii, his birthplace.
- **OH-BAMA:** Joyful exclamation, via headlines in the Kennebec, Maine, Journal, The Regisister Guard in Eugene, Ore., and The Namibian, from the southern African country of Namibia.
- **BAMELOT:** Description of his presidency, from a New York Post headline that played on the youth and freshness of John F. Kennedy's administration that came to be known as "Camelot."
- **OBAMERIKA:** Headline from the Croatian newspaper Slobodna Dalmacija.
- **BARACKSTAR:** Description from those who believe Obama is "the Mick Jagger of politics" (from Slate.com).


JOINT DEATH ANNIVERSARY
We, the family of the late
JUAN AGUON SANCHEZ
(20th Anniversary)
and
CONCEPCION REYES
DELEON GUERRERO SANCHEZ
(12th Anniversary)
cordially invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the Twentieth and Twelfth Death Anniversaries of the passage unto eternal life of our beloved ones.
Daily Mass will be celebrated at Mount Carmel Cathedral every morning at 6:00 beginning Tuesday, November 4, 2008 to Wednesday, November 12, 2008, except on Sunday, November 9, 2008 when Mass will celebrated at 9:00 a.m.
On the last day, Wednesday, November 12, 2008, the Anniversary Eucharistic Celebration will be offered at 6:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Breakfast will be served immediately after the Mass at Joeten-Daidai Social Hall. Please join us in prayers.
THE FAMILY

Life & Style

Obamas may bring new fashion sense to White House

NEW YORK (AP)—The Obamas' first official appearance as first family-elect will be long remembered for many weighty historic reasons, but it could also signal another new beginning: An entirely different fashion sense in the White House.

The Obama family took the stage in Chicago Tuesday night in color-coordinated outfits, all with touches of red or black.

For Michelle Obama, no stuffy suits or demure pastels here: Instead she wore a striking red-and-black dress designed by well-regarded, but not-so-mainstream, Narciso Rodriguez.

President-elect Barack Obama wore the same style dark-navy suit custom-made by Hart Schaffner Marx that he wore at the Democratic Convention, the company says, accompanied with a deep red, striped necktie.

Older daughter Malia wore a red bubble-hem dress, while the younger Sasha wore a black dress with an oversized bow on the front.

Together, they made a pleasing picture of coordination and confidence, style-watchers say.

"One of the things about Michelle and Barack is that they have classic American style," said Pamela Fiori, editor in chief of Town & Country.

"I hope as they move into the White House, they'll continue that and dress in a lot of American designers—it certainly has been the case so far. She says on TV that she's wearing an outfit from J.Crew," she said. "You have to appreciate her honesty and sense of style."

Michelle Obama also has worn some relatively new names on the fashion scene, including Thakoon Panichgul and Maria Pinto. She also wore an off-the-rack style by White House Black Market on "The View."

"You know what I think is amazing? She likes fashion but she doesn't

AP

President-elect Barack Obama, left, his wife Michelle Obama, right, and two daughters, Malia, and Sasha, center left, wave to the crowd at the election night rally in Chicago, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008.

really let fashion wear her," observed Adam Glassman, creative director at Oprah magazine.

(Longtime Obama supporter Oprah Winfrey, attending the Obama victory party in Grant Park, wore a long green Agnona tunic that ties at the waist.)

"She (Michelle Obama) is incredibly democratic when it comes to fashion. She doesn't just do the old guard, she represents the new," he added.

The straight-from-the-runway Rodriguez dress highlighted both her attractive figure and her savvy sense of style, Glassman said. He also said he thinks she—not a stylist—is calling the shots about her look.

It's worth noting, especially amid all the comparisons to the Obamas and Kennedys that Rodriguez also designed the wedding dress that Caroline Bessette wore at her wedding to John F. Kennedy Jr. That could be a coincidence, said Bridget Foley, executive editor of W magazine and Women's Wear Daily, but it's fodder to fuel further connections.

The sheath-dress silhouette that Jackie made famous is indeed a favorite of Michelle Obama's, albeit a more modern version.

"She took a dress shape she looks great in—a curvy sheath, but she still makes a powerful visual statement. She wants to project a bold image ... but it's not over the top wild," Foley said.

As for the new president's two-button suit, it is a classic power suit, says Homi Patel, chairman and CEO of parent company Hart Marx. "It's strong, navy and it does make you look powerful, but what makes it presidential is the man in it."

But if fashion insiders applauded the Election-night look, many bloggers called in the fashion police.

Yuli Ziv, co-founder of the user-generated online fashion magazine Myitthings.com, gave Michelle Obama points for not wearing a suit, but she also thought the dress was unflattering. "It accentuated some parts of the body I would try not to enhance," Ziv told the AP.

A posting on "The Dish Rag," an online component of the Los Angeles Times, called it a "bizarre dress that looked more like a Halloween costume than an election night frock."

But eveyone seemed to love the children.

"I love how Barack and Michelle's beautiful daughters matched—a perfect complement," said designer Zac Posen.

Town & Country's Fiori thinks the Obama family will help usher in an era of more refined dress. "Obama has taken to task the style of young boys who let their pants hang low and let their underwear show," she said. "I think we're all going to dress better and speak better and behave a lot better than we have in the past."

Angelou writing a poem about Obama

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Upon his election in 1992, Bill Clinton—affectionately referred to as the nation's first black president—asked Maya Angelou to compose a poem and read it at his inauguration. Angelou feels a new poem welling up inside her following Barack Obama's election, but she does not expect another command performance.

"I'm sure Mr. Obama, president-elect, will have them bring his own poet," the 80-year-old writer said Friday from her home in Winston-Salem, where she holds a professorship at Wake Forest University. "I was somebody else's poet."

Angelou raised some eyebrows when she decided to support Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Democratic primary over a fellow African-American. But when Clinton withdrew, the writer threw her support behind Obama, "thumping the drum" on his behalf and introducing his wife, Michelle, at an event in Greensboro in September.

The poet and author of such books as "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" said she had a visceral, physical reaction when Obama was declared the winner late Tuesday.

"First I laughed," she told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "Before I could finish laughing, I wept. Then I shook. I mean, I trembled. You know, the old meaning of the word 'thrill' has a physical aspect. It's like, 'Brrrrr!' My body started shaking."

AP

In this April 18, 2008 file photo, poet Maya Angelou is shown at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

But the experience was also cerebral. Images of slavery and the civil rights movement and of her slain friend Martin Luther King Jr. raced through her mind, and in that moment, she realized that the United States was finally "growing up."

"I thought of my people, African-Americans. I thought of white Americans. I thought of Asians and Spanish people. And I thought, `My God! What a country. What a country.' I believe that in the secret heart of every American there's a desire to live in a great country. And look at us now."

"On the Pulse of Morning," the poem she composed for Clinton, talked of war and divisiveness, but also of hope for a new beginning of peace.

Angelou said Obama is "a clear and clean wind, a breeze. ... There is some poetry in him, yes."

She has not been approached by Obama about the inauguration, nor does she expect to be. She plans to write a poem about the election of the nation's true first black president in the coming months, but she cannot yet say what form it will take. She only knows that, like this milestone, it will not come easy.

"I will approach it as the work it is," she said. "Try to put all my energies and my talents and my prayers and hopes and all that, my nervousness—all of those things will go into it."

CNN beams in guests with hologram tech

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN's tryout of holograms was the talk of TV on a night where networks brought forth all sorts of gizmos and gadgets to cover Barack Obama's election as president.

It was already being parodied Wednesday in an online mash-up, substituting CNN correspondent Jessica Yellin's voice with Princess Leia of "Star Wars."

Yellin stepped into a booth set up in a tent at Chicago's Grant Park, surrounded by 25 high-definition cameras that duplicated her moving image in much the same way as a flight simulator would. On-screen, it appeared she was standing and talking to Wolf Blitzer on CNN's New York set, an eerie white halo around her.

At another point, singer will.i.am's image came out of on-screen snow, sort of like Capt. Kirk in "Star Trek."

The hologram left some critics baffled. "It was a cute trick," wrote Tom Shales in The Washington Post, "but how did it substantially contribute to the coverage? No one seemed to know."

CNN went to great lengths to bring forth the hologram, working with a California consulting company and two overseas firms, Sportvu and Vizrt, to develop the technology.

"I didn't want it to be the centerpiece of our coverage," CNN's senior vice president and Washington bureau chief David Bohrman said. "It was an ornament on our tree. It certainly worked. We'll see where it ends up, if anywhere."

It was an odd thing to break out on Election Night, said Robert Thompson, director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University. (It certainly didn't appear to be a distraction, as CNN's audience Tuesday was nearly double what it was for 2004's Election Night).

"It was almost trotted out as kind of a vaudeville act," Thompson said.

Deborah Potter, a former CBS News reporter and executive director of the TV news think tank Newslab, said she found it strange that CNN would want to send a reporter to a location filled with people celebrating Obama's election and then make it appear as if she wasn't there.

News organizations need to make it clear they're not deceiving people when technology makes it appear someone is somewhere they're not. ABC once apologized, for example, when Cokie Roberts posed in a winter coat overlooking a picture of the Capitol, making it appear she was outside when she was in a studio.

Bohrman said CNN deliberately made the effect look cheesy so the network's intentions were clear. The eerie white glow around Yellin, in other words, was put in intentionally. Between Yellin and will.i.am, the effect was on for about four minutes out of several hours of coverage.

"I don't think we overused it," he said. "We gave a little taste of something (viewers) may see a lot of in the future."

It wasn't the only optical illusion on display Tuesday. CNN's John King worked with a virtual reality U.S. Capitol, and NBC's Ann Curry stood in a green room that appeared, through virtual reality, to be a fancy set with Roman columns.

Television is constantly trying out new visual elements, like CNBC's use of 10 talking heads in on-screen boxes at the same time during the financial crisis. During the 1980s, Ted Koppel perfected the use of personalities discussing issues on a split screen.

THREE WISE GUYS

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, advice on life and other stuff from the male perspective, perpetrated by Post staffers, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak. It may not be professional advice, but their responses to reader questions serve up a deft handling of any conceivable topic.

Orange aid, marker scents, sibling rivalry

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dear Wise Guys: It's almost time for the orange inundation to begin. How can I politely tell everyone I know in Florida to please refrain from sending crates and bushels of oranges and those drippy honeybell things? They mean well, but (1) actually, I hate oranges; and (2) so many arrive I can't even give them away (everybody else gets a lot, too) and end up throwing them in the trash, which makes me feel guilty. I drove a couple of crates to a shelter last year and the very next day got three more crates. I can't stand this. Please help.—DC in DC

Joe: Orange you glad they're not bananas?

Justin: With a large enough liquid storage container and industrial volumes of apple cider, rum and cloves, you could throw a truly epic wassail.

Dan: What a ghastly predicament. You could fake your death, but that's a lot of work—especially if you want your Floridian friends to know you "died" of a fructose overdose. So just tell them that you're moving and send a bogus new address. That way all the crates will be returned to the senders, and they will be made to feel at least a fraction your orange-influx anguish.

■ ■ ■ ■

Guys: As I sat at work looking at a Magic Marker, it suddenly came upon me to ask: Why can't a Magic Marker be made to smell like something nice such as roses or fresh-baked cookies instead of like the town drunk?—All Marked Up

Joe: Funny, I've been inhaling from the toner cartridge and wondering the same thing.

Justin: Why are you sniffing pens at work? If this is going to become a habit, I suggest you at least make it a bit more upscale to protect your professional image. Many high-end pen companies, such as Montblanc, make scented inks for their fountain pens. Or, try adding essential oils, available at health food stores, to your inkwell.

Dan: Inkwell? Is this question from Bill Shakespeare? I called Sharpie and asked if the company has flavored markers. It doesn't. The marker potion is alcohol-based to ELIMINATE odor, the customer service rep said. Which means the markers would smell even worse without the town-drunk additive. Want to experience that? Open a xylene-based marker. The rep recommends cracking a window first. Oh, also: Crayola has a line of markers called Silly Scents that features such odors as Voodoo Vapor and Dragon Drool.

Joe: The Crayola folks were sniffing Sharpies when they came up with those names.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys: I have a brother who just turned of age to get a job, which for some reason he wants. The problem is his grades are horrible. My parents think that it's the best thing in the world that he wants a job, but I think if his grades suck now they won't be any better when most of his time is taken up. Should he get a job and have the possibility of flunking out of school (which he is close to doing now)? Or do you think it will help his responsibility level?—The Sibling

Dan: This is so out of our league. Where's Carolyn Hax?

Carolyn Hax: Why is he struggling? If it's a motivation problem, then the job can be used as a carrot: If he gets his grades up this term, then he can get a job next term (and keep it for as long as he maintains a B/C/whatever average). If it's a learning or unidentified problem, then good parents (ahem) would enlist the school's help in identifying the underlying issues; a little effort toward finding an education that suits his needs could save him from a lifetime on the economy's lowest rung. Obviously the parents aren't the ones asking, so these are suggestions for the writer to urge on his/her parents, which is a little weird. But, hey, we support supportive siblings.

Joe: Wow, Carolyn, now that's a helpful answer. There's no way we could have come up with that. No wonder you have a column all to yourself.

■ ■ ■ ■

This week's motto: Fairly Unbalanced Retorting (submitted by Laura Kauffman Williams of Arlington, Va.)

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The Wise Guys are working on a special column in honor of their one-year anniversary, or MANiversary. Please send extra-special questions, ideas and congratulations to wiseguys@washpost.com.

AP

This Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007 file photo shows President-elect Barack Obama, center, his wife Michelle, right, and Oprah Winfrey as they wave to the crowd at a rally in Manchester, N.H.

Pop culture moments that defined Election '08

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Given the historic election we've all just experienced, it's hard to remember back to last week, let alone June 2007, when Barack Obama was a true underdog, polling way behind front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton.

That's when a 32-year-old ad executive came up with an idea for a new Web video. Seeking something catchy to launch a new site, barelypolitical.com, he sensed that Obama, though well behind Clinton, had a huge following online because of his youthful appeal.

And so Ben Relles made the "Obama Girl" video, a racy paean to the candidate that's been seen millions of times on YouTube and other sites, spawned sequels, was picked up by mainstream media across the globe, and made bikini-clad model Amber Lee Ettinger a unique kind of political Web celebrity.

Pop culture in political campaigns is nothing new. But it's easy to forget that in 2004, when George W. Bush ran against John Kerry, there was no YouTube. If it seems like pop culture took a more prominent role in this election than ever before, it's largely due to technology that now makes pop culture such a participatory experience.

"People aren't just receiving pop culture from mass media anymore," says Montana Miller, professor at Bowling Green State University. "They're agents themselves, producing mashups, videos, making T-shirts. It's difficult to tell anymore what's amateur and what's not."

So everyone was producing pop culture this election season: The media, the candidates themselves, their supporters, or just people with a computer and a little time. Here's a chronological look at some of the top pop culture moments of Election 2008:

■ ■ ■ ■

THE POWER OF O: In May 2007, Oprah Winfrey endorses Barack Obama on "Larry King Live," the first time the talk show queen has ever endorsed a political candidate. "What he stands for, what he has proven that he can stand for ... was worth me going out on a limb," she says.

Oprah's endorsement—still viewable on YouTube, of course—leads to a media discussion of how valuable such endorsements are. Most experts say not so much. But this is Oprah, and two economists later claim they've calculated that Winfrey's endorsement gave Obama about a million votes.

I GOTTA CRUSH: The above-mentioned "Obama Girl" video comes out the next month, with catchy lyrics along the lines of: "You're into border security, let's break this border between you and me!" Obama himself indicates he's not pleased. In any case, Relles estimates the video has been seen about 20 million times—10 million on YouTube alone.

"The Web, especially online video, has given us a way to participate in this election," says Relles. "Something that's created in an afternoon can be seen millions of times across the globe."

YES WE CAN: This one, Obama likes. In February, rapper, songwriter and producer will.i.am brings together a star-studded cast for his own viral video, the song "Yes We Can," based on the candidate's acclaimed speech after a second-place finish in the New Hampshire primary.

"It was as if he was talking to me," will.i.am says of that speech. The song features Obama's voice set to will.i.am's music and melody, plus vocalizations from Scarlet Johansson, John Legend, Kate Walsh, Herbie Hancock and others.

DIRT OFF YOUR SHOULDER: When was the last time you saw a presidential candidate proudly displaying his hip-hop knowledge? In April, at a rally in Raleigh, N.C., Obama is bemoaning political attacks from the Clinton camp.

"You just gotta kinda let it ..." the candidate says. And then he brushes the dirt off his shoulders. It's a Jay-Z move, and Obama does it once, twice, three times, then brushes some off his leg, too. "That's what you gotta do," he tells the crowd. They roar back their approval. Immediately, there are mashups galore.

AN ARTFUL ENDORSEMENT: Los Angeles street artist Shepard Fairey creates in May what will become a wildly popular poster of Obama. Getting permission from the campaign first, he chooses a photo of the candidate gazing ahead, then uses colors of red, white and blue to create his image, underlined by the word, "HOPE." The posters sell like hotcakes.

THE ANTI-CELEBRITY MOVEMENT: "He's the biggest celebrity in the world. But is he ready to lead?" The words of John McCain's anti-Obama campaign ad are provocative, but the images really get the attention: Obama speaking to an adoring crowd in Berlin, interspersed with footage of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton.

Does it work? Some pop culture analysts and humorists say the attack ad is silly and even passe, given that Spears and Hilton are hardly in the news anymore. But it certainly gets attention. Then, to surprise us all, Hilton pipes up with her own video riposte, actually wittier than the original.

SARAH/TINA/PALIN/FEY: It's Sarah Palin time! Some have called this THE pop culture moment of the campaign—certainly it's one of them. In September, Tina Fey, who looks uncannily like the Alaska governor, launches her much admired impersonation on "Saturday Night Live," getting the look and the accent—and the wink—just right. The first sketch, with Amy Poehler as Clinton, comes after Palin's shaky TV interview with Charles Gibson on ABC, and includes the iconic line, "I can see Russia from my house!"

KATIE'S COMEBACK: Katie Couric scores a viral video hit, and unfortunately for Palin, it's not a song but an actual news interview with the VP candidate—and one in which she stumbles badly, wrapping herself in tongue-twisters over foreign policy, unable to give details on running mate McCain's record, and in one segment, unable (or unwilling) to tell Couric what newspapers she reads. For the anchor, though, it's a major coup, after two years of low ratings and negative stories about her tenure at CBS.

SNL SUMMIT: A great season for SNL gets even better—the shows earns its best ratings in 14 years when Palin herself appears on the show, appearing on the same screen as Fey for only a split second, but then bopping along during a "Weekend Update" segment as Poehler raps: "All the mavericks in the house, put your hands up!" "

McCAIN HUMOR: Not to be upstaged by his running mate (well, not this time), John McCain makes his own appearance on SNL, just two days before the election. The GOP candidate shows he has a sense of humor, announcing he'll pursue a new campaign strategy: "The reverse maverick. That's where I'd do whatever anybody tells me." McCain is a hit; unfortunately for him, the ratings don't translate directly to votes.

Ted Turner says Fonda's faith didn't cause split

NEW YORK (AP)—It wasn't religion that broke up his marriage to Jane Fonda, Ted Turner declares in a new memoir.

He says he was "upset" when he discovered his wife's "conversion," but "it wasn't because she had become Christian," the 69-year-old Turner writes in "Call Me Ted," which comes out next week. The Associated Press obtained an early copy.

He was upset because Fonda didn't talk to him about it.

Turner's 433-page book, coauthored with former Turner Broadcasting executive Bill Burke, reviews his loquacious, multi-pronged rise as yachtsman, baseball team owner, cable visionary and philanthropist.

The book includes commentary from fellow America's Cup racers, business moguls such as Bill Gates and former Time Warner chairman Gerald Levin, friends such as former President Carter, family members and Fonda, his wife for 10 years.

Fonda wrote at length about her marriage to Turner in her memoir "My Life So Far," and Turner adds a similar take without referring to the infidelities alleged against him by the Academy Award-winning actress. The two say they remain good friends.

He remembers their impulsive courtship, beginning in 1990 with his learning of her divorce from activist Tom Hayden and immediately calling her, a virtual stranger, for a date. She declined. He persisted. Six months later she accepted. They married in 1991.

They cared deeply about each other but spent so much time apart that they had "trouble communicating" even when together; not even couples therapy could save the marriage, with Fonda's faith cited at the time as a possible cause for their divorce. Turner remembered going back to their Montana ranch for the first time after their split and seeing that Fonda had taken all her belongings.

"Our closets faced each other's, and when I saw her empty space I sat down on the floor between them and cried," writes Turner, who had two previous wives.

The son of a demanding advertising magnate who killed himself when Turner was in his mid-20s, he acknowledges his own disturbing mood swings and writes that in the 1980s he was told he was bipolar and placed on lithium. After a couple of years, feeling little change, he tried a new psychiatrist, who reversed the earlier diagnosis and canceled the prescription.

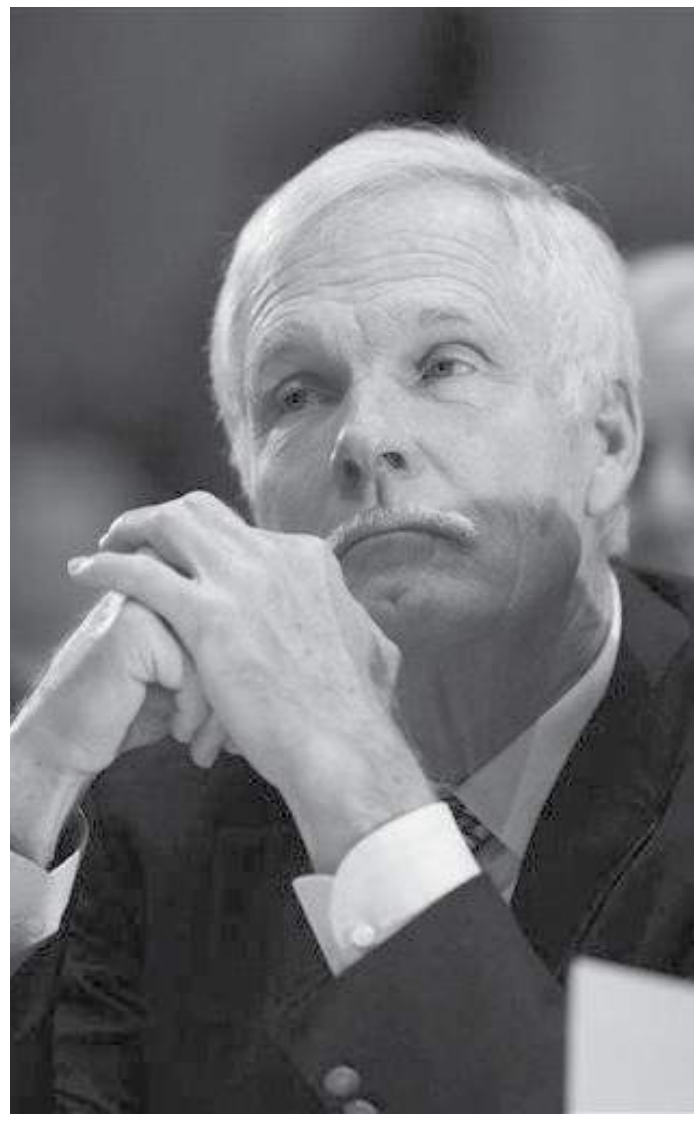
Turner also looks back on his unlikely friendship with Fidel Castro (they hunted together, then argued about politics over rum and cigars) and his reconciliation with former rival Rupert Murdoch over a mutual concern about the environment. He defends his highly criticized decision to colorize such Hollywood classics as "Casablanca," reiterating previous comments that he was making old films more accessible to young audiences.

He looks back proudly on building his cable empire, including the founding of CNN, and sadly on his eventual departure from Time Warner, which bought out his Turner Broadcasting Systems in 1996. He still insists he was "fired" by Levin in the wake of Time Warner's 2000 merger with AOL, and Levin, allowed to offer his side, still denies it (They no longer speak, Levin adds, regretfully).

In his hopefully titled conclusion, "Onward and Upward," Turner says he has "very few regrets," vows to live long and well enough to fill a second book and wonders what should be inscribed on his tombstone.

As a young celebrity, he wanted "You Can't Interview Me Here." In middle age, he liked "Here Lies Ted Turner. He Never Owned a Broadcast Network."

As an older man and published author: "I Have Nothing More to Say."



AP PHOTO/CHARLES DHARAPAK, FILE

In this June 15, 2006 file photo, Ted Turner, chairman of Turner Enterprises, listens as President Bush speaks at the Initiative for Global Development 2006 National Summit in Washington.

Hollywood joins the furor over gay marriage ban

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Thousands of protesters are angry about California's ban on gay marriage—and so are the stars.

Many celebrities grieved the passing of Proposition 8 in California this week. Some—such as Wanda Sykes, Rose McGowan and Lance Bass—attended a Wednesday protest criticizing the state's gay marriage ban. Others—like Ellen DeGeneres, Rosie O'Donnell, Madonna and Melissa Etheridge—vented their frustrations online, on TV, and onstage.

Blocks away from the Thursday rally of more than 2,000 gay-rights advocates outside the gates of a Mormon temple, several stars—including James Cromwell, Patricia Clarkson, Anjelica Huston and Sean Penn—said they supported the protesters while walking the red carpet at the BAFTA L.A. Brittania Awards at Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel.

"I think it might be an idea to go out and join them shortly," Penn said. "It was a shameful decision that was made."

Etheridge, who exchanged vows with her longtime partner in a 2003 ceremony, declared in a blog entry posted Thursday on TheDailyBeast.com that she wouldn't pay her taxes. The gay Oscar- and Grammy-winning singer-songwriter said that without the right to marry in California, she didn't think she should have to pay taxes because "I am not a full citizen."

AP

More than 1,000 supporters of same-sex marriage march through San Francisco on Friday, Nov. 7, 2008. The group is protesting the passage of Proposition 8, a ballot measure amending California's constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

"I don't mean to get too personal here," Etheridge wrote. "But there is a lot I can do with the extra half a million dollars that I will be keeping instead of handing it over to the state of California. Oh, and I am sure Ellen will be a little excited to keep her bazillion bucks that she pays in taxes, too."

DeGeneres, on her show and the show's Web site, provided a brief message of support Friday for President-elect Obama and the gay-rights advocates protesting Proposition 8. The talk show host, who married actress Portia de Rossi in August, previously donated $100,000 against the ballot initiative and starred in a commercial lamenting the measure.

"So there was a demonstration here on Wednesday night," DeGeneres told the audience, "and just before I walked out here, I was watching the news and there is a huge, huge, peaceful demonstration going on in the streets, and I say, good for you, and I support you, and if I weren't here, I'd be out there with you."

O'Donnell, who lives in New York, responded to comments and questions about her stance on the issue on her Web site. When one person said he understood why she didn't come out against the proposition, O'Donnell responded: "I AM AGAINST PROP 8. DUH." She also wrote she believes the estimated 18,000 gay marriages would be annulled "like mine was years ago."

The former talk show host, who lives with partner Kelli Carpenter and their four children, publicly wed Carpenter in San Francisco in 2004, two weeks after Mayor Gavin Newsom authorized granting marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The licenses were later voided by the California Supreme Court.

Also ranting online was celebrity disc jockey Samantha Ronson. Lindsay Lohan's gal pal blogged Thursday that she was shocked that California voters approved an animal-rights initiative but that ballot measures about gay marriage and adoption in California, Florida, Arizona and Arkansas were shot down.

"I guess people care more about farm animals than they do their fellow man, that's really sad to me," Ronson wrote on her MySpace blog. "Yes, I am glad that the chickens will have more room and better conditions as they wait to die, but I just think it's frightening that people show more compassion for tomorrow's dinner than for the chef."

Other celebs used time in the spotlight to decry the decision. Madonna took a moment during her concert at Dodger Stadium to declare to the audience that she was sad "because African-Americans are equal finally, but gay marriage is not."

Singer Christina Aguilera also spoke out against the ban.

"I think it's discrimination," Aguilera said in a Thursday interview with MTV News. "I don't understand how people can be so closed-minded and so judgmental. We chose an African-American president who means so much in a time in history of great change and open-mindedness. Why is this any different? It just doesn't make sense to me."

Taylor Swift, Def Leppard team up

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A year ago, when the guys in Def Leppard heard that Taylor Swift wanted to do an episode of the Country Music Television show "Crossroads" with them, they had just one question: Who's Taylor Swift?

"There's always a first time when you discover a band, whether it's the Beatles or Taylor Swift," Def Leppard singer Joe Elliott said.

"So we Googled her and iTuned her and listened to it all and said 'Wow.' And you look at how many records she's selling and how lovely and pretty she is and how exciting it is to be at that point in your career, because we were there once - before you were born," he added glancing over at the 18-year-old Swift at a recent press conference.

The show, a popular series on CMT that pairs country artists with pop and rock acts, will air 9 p.m. EST Friday.

Swift didn't have to Google the British rock band to find out about them. Her mom is a big fan.

"Before she met my dad she listened to them and all through while she was pregnant with me and when I was a little kid. It's just so cool to have that - my favorite songs are the same as my mom's favorite songs."

She said the band's hits like "Photograph" and "Pour Some Sugar on Me" were a blast to sing.

"It fits really well," she said. "The harmonies that they do on their songs are perfect for my range.

"There's a line in the song `When Love & Hate Collide,' the first line, and it says `You could have a change of heart, if you would only change your mind.' I've always been obsessed with that line and the melody of it, and I get to sing that line, and I'm so excited," said Swift, whose self-titled debut album has sold 3 million copies with hits such as "Our Song" and "Teardrops on My Guitar."

Her second album, "Fearless," comes out Tuesday. The first single, "Love Story," is No. 2 on the Billboard country chart (and No. 16 on the Billboard Hot 100).

This is Def Leppard's second collaboration with a country star this year. They teamed with Tim McGraw on the song "Nine Lives" from their latest album, "Songs from the Sparkle Lounge."

"Country is a state of mind rather than a place, I think," Elliott, 49, said in his thick English accent.

Will.i.am, 'Mr. Man' guest on Winfrey's show

CHICAGO (AP)—Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am debuted his new music video celebrating President-elect Obama's victory on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" Friday.

The lyrics of "It's a New Day" include: "I woke up this morning, feeling brand new/Cuz the dreams that I've been dreaming has finally come true."

While the Grammy-winning artist performed the song at the Chicago studio, a video featuring photos of Obama, his family, Winfrey and the Rev. Jesse Jackson from Chicago's Election Night rally played on a giant screen behind him. The video also shows black and white photographs of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Harriet Tubman.

Winfrey asked the artist, who attended the Chicago rally, to describe how he felt when Obama walked on stage.

"I can't really explain it in words," he said. "I thought of all the people that paved the way for that moment."

Earlier this year, will.i.am created a buzz for Obama when he made a "Yes We Can" music video with celebrities including John Legend and Scarlett Johansson reciting parts of an Obama speech set to music. The video received millions of online views.

Other guests Friday were ABC News' George Stephanopoulos and Sam Perry, called "Mr. Man" by Winfrey and dubbed by some as "Oprah's human hanky."

Perry, an Obama campaign worker from California and a Silicon Valley businessman, gained instant fame after camera shots of a teary Winfrey leaning over his shoulder at the Chicago rally circulated widely.

Winfrey described the densely packed crowd and said she was so swept up in the historic moment that she didn't even know who Perry was at the time.

"I never even saw his full face. I only saw him from the side," Winfrey said. "So if I had to identify him from a lineup, I couldn't."

Winfrey thanked Perry and apologized for not asking his name at the rally.

He was not bothered.

"You were so kind to express concern over my jacket. But this is the jacket," Perry said pointing to the brown blazer he was wearing. "And you'll see there is no mascara."

Perry said he received numerous phone calls and messages about his moment with one of the world's most famous women.

"It's very good, actually, that the cameras where there," he said. "Because it was a lot easier to go home to my wife and say `It really was Oprah.'"

McCain set for Veteran's Day visit to 'Tonight'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sen. John McCain will make his first post-election TV appearance on the "Tonight" show next week, NBC said Friday.

The Republican presidential candidate is set to join "Tonight" host Jay Leno on Tuesday in honor of Veteran's Day, the network announced. McCain is a former Naval officer and prisoner of war in Vietnam.

Picking a talk show over a news show for his first TV interview guarantees McCain a more lighthearted experience after his loss to President-elect Obama.

That McCain chose "Tonight" instead of David Letterman's "Late Show" on CBS may have its roots in the campaign. Letterman repeatedly roasted McCain for canceling a September guest shot because of the economic crisis, finally relenting when McCain came on and said he had "screwed up."

HBO buys Barack Obama documentary for spring

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO has bought the U.S. rights to a behind-the-scenes documentary on Barack Obama's presidential campaign from actor Edward Norton's production company.

Filming will continue through the president-elect's inauguration, with the premiere expected sometime in the spring, the network said Friday. HBO reportedly paid at least $1 million to show the still-untitled film.

Director Amy Rice, working for Norton's Class 5 Films, had contacted Obama about a potential documentary even before he decided to run for president, HBO said. When Obama started his campaign and it became a success, Rice and fellow director Alicia Sams found themselves in the right place at the right time.

Over 2 1/2 years, the filmmakers had "unprecedented" access to the candidate, his family, friend and campaign volunteers, HBO said.

CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR AP

In this photo released by Radio City Music Hall, some members of the "Radio City Rockettes," Nikki Williams, left, Brittany Marcin, center left, Kimmi Louwsma, center right and Laura Danelski, pose for a photo on the Observation Deck of the Empire State Building in New York, Friday, Nov. 7, 2008 during their ceremonial stop at the landmark prior to the opening of "2008 Radio City Christmas Spectacular!"

Hall & Oates sue over 'Maneater' recording

NEW YORK (AP)—Daryl Hall and John Oates have filed a lawsuit saying their music publisher failed to protect their rights to their 1982 hit "Maneater."

The pop duo's lawsuit, filed in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, says they learned in April 2007 that an unidentified singer-songwriter had used "Maneater" in a 2006 recording.

"Money's the matter / If you're in it for love, you ain't gonna get too far," the song goes. "Oh, here she comes / Watch out, boy, she'll chew you up / Oh, here she comes / She's a maneater."

The singers' court papers claim Warner/Chappell Music Inc. breached its publishing contract with them by refusing "in bad faith" to sue for copyright infringement.

The singers seek unspecified money damages and want to terminate their agreement with Warner/Chappell.

Warner/Chappell spokeswoman Amanda Collins said Thursday the lawsuit was "completely without merit."

"We will defend ourselves vigorously," she said.

Hall and Oates started working together in the early 1970s and became the most successful duo in rock history, with more than 60 million albums sold, according to the hallandoates.com Web site. Their other hits include "Rich Girl," "Private Eyes," "I Can't Go for That (No Can Do)," "Sara Smile" and "She's Gone."

'Eagle Eye' star Michelle Monaghan has a baby girl

NEW YORK (AP)—"Eagle Eye" star Michelle Monaghan and her husband Peter White have welcomed a baby girl named Willow Katherine in Los Angeles.

"Everyone is doing great," Monaghan's publicist, Jennifer Allen, said Friday.

Willow, who was born Wednesday, is the couple's first child. The 32-year-old Monaghan married White, a graphic designer, in August 2005. They began dating after meeting in a New York City bar.

Monaghan co-stars with Shia LaBeouf in the thriller "Eagle Eye." Her screen credits also include "Made of Honor," "Gone Baby Gone," Mission: Impossible III," "North Country," "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang" and "Constantine."

In this May 5, 2008 file photo, actress Michelle Monaghan arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Gala in New York. AP

Man finds neither time nor money for love child

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My beautiful 9-month-old daughter, "Lyric," is the result of an affair. Her father, "James," has never seen her, except in photographs. His family has no idea she exists. When I send pictures, he promises to visit "soon"—but I'm not supposed to ask when because he "just doesn't know right now."

I feel it's my fault Lyric is growing up without a father. My parents dote on her, and they are furious that James promised to make sure we were taken care of but hasn't followed through "for financial reasons."

I have never taken him to court for child support (James does send a little) because I'm afraid if I do, he'll never come to see Lyric. I worry about her future because my dad was estranged from us when we were little, and his absence influenced some of the worst choices I have made in my life.

Why would James promise to visit but never make the effort? Why continue the charade? I'm afraid my daughter will blame me for not having a dad when she's older.

I have considered taking her to see James unexpectedly (he and his wife are currently separated) so I can tell her I did everything in my power to get him involved. My parents say I should be happy I don't have to share her, and not to take her because he has broken so many promises to me.

I have been upset about this ever since Lyric was born, and my depression seems to be getting worse. The guilt and regret are eating me alive. Please help.

DESPONDENT IN VIRGINIA

DEAR DESPONDENT: James may not have been telling you the complete truth. He continues the charade because it keeps you frozen in a holding pattern. Do not be surprised to learn that he is not separated from his wife, which could be the reason he hasn't visited.

The first thing you should do is consult your doctor and discuss the depression you have experienced since your daughter's birth. It could be caused less by the guilty conscience than a postpartum hormone imbalance. If it's the latter, it's treatable. Once that's done, consult a lawyer to ensure that Lyric will be provided for financially.

Truthful people do what they say. Because James doesn't, stop listening to what he says and focus on what he does—which is almost nothing. He may say he wants to see his daughter, but face the fact that Lyric may reach adulthood before he gets around to it. And please don't hold your breath waiting for James to stand up and act like a man, because frankly, he doesn't appear to be much of one.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife accuses me of "acting pretentious" when we are dinner guests at a friend's house and I warm my plate in the microwave. What am I supposed to do when the food has gone cold or lukewarm, and I want my meal to be hot?

SOME LIKE IT HOT, SAN JOSE, CALIF.

DEAR SOME LIKE IT HOT: Your wife may be afraid that by taking your plate into the kitchen because the food is too cold for your tastes, you are insulting your hostess. But I am with you, because I like my food hot, too.

The way I would handle it would be to quietly ask the hostess if she minded me taking the food into the kitchen and "zapping it" for a minute or two. A good hostess wants her guests to be comfortable and will probably offer to do it for you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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235- NEWS

Former Raiders Hall joins Redskins

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—DeAngelo Hall didn't stay unemployed for long.

Less than one day after clearing waivers, the cornerback agreed Friday to a one-year contract with the Washington Redskins.

"He's excited to be coming home, he's a Virginia Tech guy," said his agent, Joel Segal.

Hall should suit up for Washington's next game, on Nov. 16 against Dallas. The Redskins, who have had injury problems in the secondary, have a bye this week.

Hall was released by Oakland earlier this week after playing just eight games with the Raiders. Oakland acquired Hall in the offseason for two draft picks, then signed him to a seven-year, $70 million contract. But he lasted only a half-season with the Raiders, and several players expressed disappointment that was released.

But Hall did struggle in coverage early in the season; he had shown signs of improvement in recent weeks, but was let go anyway following a 24-0 loss to the Falcons that dropped Oakland to 2-6 on the season.

In his eight games in Oakland, Hall was beaten 40 times for 552 yards on 66 passes thrown his way, according to data compiled by STATS. He gave up more yards than any defender this season and was tied for third worst in catches allowed.

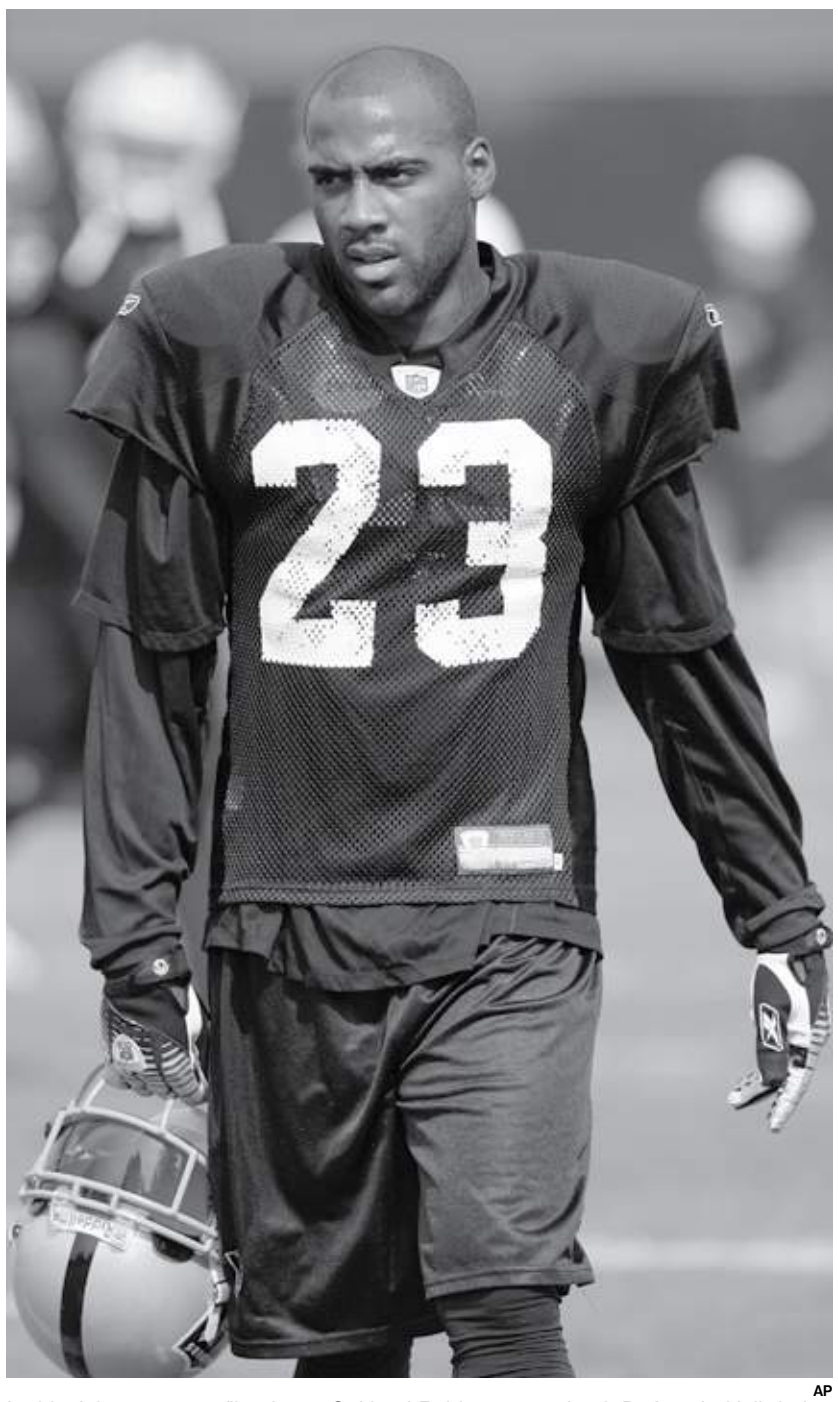
In Washington, he joins a 6-3 team that needs help in the defensive backfield. The Redskins also hope cornerback Shawn Springs can return against Dallas after being sidelined with a calf problem.

Hall was one of the first players new general manager Thomas Dimitroff and coach Mike Smith moved out of Atlanta when they took over earlier this year.

In a 2007 game against Carolina, Hall lost his temper in the third quarter while covering Steve Smith, which resulted in three penalties totaling 67 yards. That drive ended with a Panthers touchdown and Carolina won the game.

Hall was fined $100,000 after the game for his sideline outburst with former coach Bobby Petrino.

Expecting to making a fresh start in Oakland, Hall now will do so in Washington.



AP

In this July 25, 2008 file photo, Oakland Raiders cornerback DeAngelo Hall during workouts at their football training camp in Napa, Calif. Hall agreed Friday to a one-year contract with the Washington Redskins. Hall was released by Oakland earlier this week after playing just eight games with the Raiders. He cleared waivers on Thursday, then joined the Redskins.

Vikings' Allen fined $50K for low hits

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Jared Allen got a double dose of bad news Friday.

Minnesota's star defensive end was fined a whopping $50,000 by the NFL for two below-the-knee hits on Houston quarterback Matt Schaub last week. Allen also learned he was listed as doubtful on the injury report for the upcoming game against rival Green Bay.

Allen declined to discuss the fine due to his desire to appeal the punishment, and his agent Ken Harris also refrained from comment. Schaub and Texans coach Gary Kubiak this week each called the hit that injured the quarterback's left knee a cheap shot.

Last month, Allen was docked $5,000 by the league for a late hit against Chicago.

Though Allen was not penalized during the Houston game, NFL spokesman Randall Liu said the fine was for two plays considered roughing the passer. Allen's actions violated this portion of the league rulebook: "A rushing defender who has an unrestricted path to the passer from any direction is prohibited from forcibly hitting the passer in the knee area or below."

Early in the second quarter during a 17-yard completion to tight end Owen Daniels, Schaub injured the medial collateral ligament in his left knee when Allen came in low. Schaub, who left the game at halftime, is out for two to four weeks. Allen, ironically, hurt his shoulder in the same quarter and played through it.

Allen's fine matches the amount levied on New York Jets safety Eric Smith for a vicious helmet-to-helmet hit that knocked Arizona wide receiver Anquan Boldin out for three weeks. Smith was also suspended for one game.

Earlier this week, Allen defended his actions. He said he apologized to Schaub after the game and meant no ill will.

"I was coming back and I slipped, and he was still in front of me," Allen said. "Obviously I didn't hit him late, because the refs were right there. They didn't call nothing."

Allen, who signed a six-year contract with more than $31 million guaranteed and worth as much as $74.5 million, complained Wednesday that the league was too strict toward defensive players.

"We play a violent game, and we all know when we sign our names on that dotted line that there are going to be injuries. There is going to be pain," Allen said. "That's what we sign up for. That's what we do. It makes us feel alive. And then for us to get punished for it is kind of one of those things where you're like, whatever."

He added: "I don't throw touchdown passes ... therefore we're not the special ones."

Allen was a limited participant in Friday's practice, but his sprained right shoulder still has plenty of healing to do. Vikings coach Brad Childress said he wouldn't decide whether Allen would play Sunday until shortly before kickoff.

Allen reiterated it wasn't his call.

"They're not going to put me in a position to damage my arm," he said.

Brian Robison will start in Allen's place if he can't go. Minnesota's fourth-round draft pick last year, Robison had 4 1/2 sacks as a rookie. While Allen was ailing during most of last week's game, Robison totaled four tackles, one quarterback hurry and one pass defensed. Robison has essentially been the primary backup at both end spots, behind Allen and Ray Edwards.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'm ready to take on a full-time role right now," Robison said. "I feel like if either one of those guys weren't here, I'd be the starter right now and I'd be just fine."

Verplank leads Disney with second straight 64

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Scott Verplank shot his second straight 8-under 64 Friday to take a three-stroke lead in the Children's Miracle Network Classic at Disney, the final official PGA Tour event of the season.

Steve Marino (66) and Troy Matteson (68) were tied for second, but the real drama was at the bottom of the standings.

Friday was cut day in the event that ends the race for spots in the top 125 on the final money list, the cutoff for full 2009 PGA Tour.

"A guy from the PGA just told me I'm projected at 125," said Brad Adamonis, who birdied the last hole to finish 1 under but missed the cut. "I probably won't look at the standings until the tournament is over. At least that's my plan. I'd probably throw up if I did."

Whether he comes in at 125 depends on what happens this weekend with the players behind him who made the cut at 5 under.

Bob Tway, who played with Verplank and shot a 62 after a first-round 73, made the cut and needs to finish in the top 12 to make the top 125. Tway, ranked 131st, and Verplank combined for 20 birdies on the Palm Course on Friday.

Erik Compton, who's had two heart transplants and got a sponsor exemption, shot a 68 and made the cut by two strokes. He'll play in the second round of Q-school next week, only six months after his second transplant.

Tway still holds the course record of 61 at the Lake Buena Vista course, where the tournament was formerly held.

Verplank, who sank a 60-foot putt on 14 for an eagle 3, has suddenly found his putting stroke and hinted his round could have been better in what he called perfect playing conditions.

"I stayed out too late at the parks last night with my kids, so I was a little lethargic when we started," said Verplank, who has made a tournament-record 13 straight cuts. "My equilibrium was off, and then something happened where I fell into a zone and didn't know where I was."

Adamonis played Thursday with his own private gallery—his parents, wife and aunt and uncle. They groaned when he hit his tee shot into the water on 14 and cheered when he birdied 18.

David Adamonis, a Miami-area golf coach who has fought prostate, lymphoma, lung and throat cancer the last three years, toted his son's bag the last two holes.

"He made mistakes he wouldn't normally make," David Adamonis said. "I told him to just play and what happened, happened. Sometimes self-imposed pressure doesn't help."

Some of the players who lose their cards will go back to Q-school. Those who've won tournaments, or have some notoriety, such as 2002 PGA Championship winner Rich Beem, likely will rely on sponsorship exemptions.

Mike Allen, who has made it through nine Q-schools, shot a 67 to make the cut at 137. He feels confident about his chances, and with the experience of 13 trips to the final round of the Q-school, he's not easily fazed.

"People say a guy can shoot a 63 without even trying, drinking the whole round," Allen said. "Well, let's see him go out and shoot that round when it counts."

Allen, whose buddy at Mesa (Ariz.) Country Club placed a sign on his locker proclaiming Allen "the Q-school all-time money winner," said he can relax a bit now that he made the cut.

"Otherwise I was toast," said Allen, 49, who can qualify for the Champions Tour in January. "I made the cut, so I have a lot of control over my own destiny right now."

Verplank was tied for the two-day tournament record before a bogey on 18. The record of 17 under is held by Chris DiMarco, Carl Petterson and Justin Rose.

AP

Scott Verplank hits a shot from the 18th tee during the second round of the Children's Miracle Network Classic PGA golf tournament at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Friday, Nov. 7, 2008. Verpalnk finished at 16-under par for the tournament with a total score of 128.

Nets spoil Iverson's debut with Pistons

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)— Devin Harris scored a career-high 38 points Friday night to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 103-96 victory over Detroit, spoiling Allen Iverson's debut with the Pistons.

New Jersey, which trailed by as many as 14 points in the first half, played some of its best basketball of the season in the final two periods to hand the Pistons their first loss after four wins to open the season.

Vince Carter and Josh Boone each scored 18 for New Jersey, which got its first home win after two losses. Boone also pulled down 14 rebounds.

Iverson had 24 points and six assists after finally getting to suit up. Detroit played twice since the trade Monday with Denver that sent Chauncey Billups, Antonio McDyess and Cheikh Samb to the Nuggets for the nine-time All-Star. Iverson was not available for the first game and was not permitted to play the second because Billups had not completed his physical with the Nuggets.

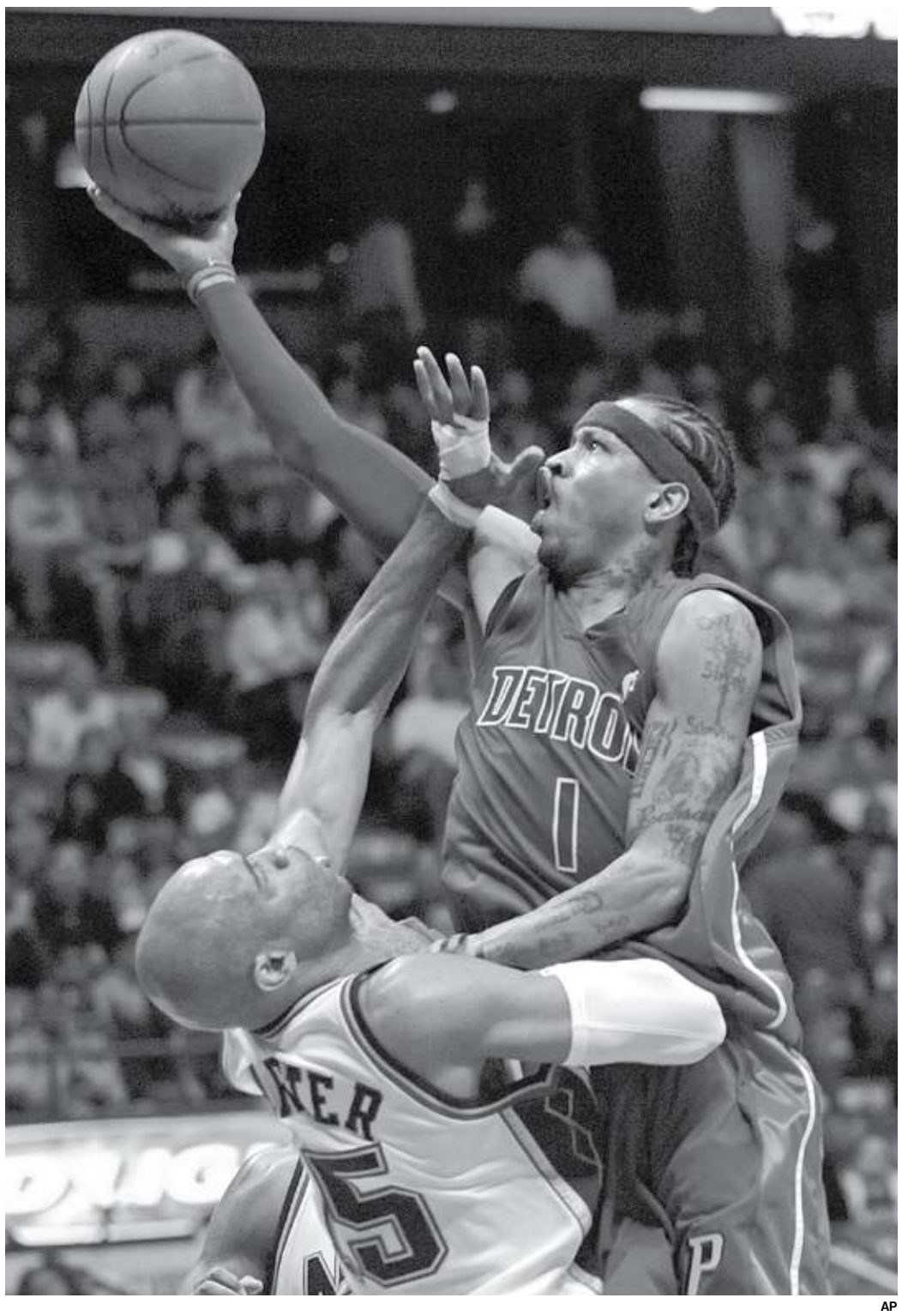
Rip Hamilton had 22 points, while Tayshaun Prince added 19 points and 11 rebounds.

It looked like an easy win for Detroit at the start.

Iverson stepped right in, joining Hamilton in the Detroit backcourt, replacing Rodney Stuckey. He got a rousing cheer from the crowd at the Izod Center when he was introduced with the starters.

Iverson immediately took over the game, factoring in the Pistons' first three scores. Iverson dished off to Hamilton for the game's first basket, scored on a finger-roll layup and kicked the ball out to Prince for a 3-pointer as Detroit took a 9-6 lead.

Iverson played the entire opening quarter, scoring 11 points, making all three shots from the field, including a 3-pointer, while going 4-for-4 from the free throw line as the Pistons raced to a 27-14 lead.



AP

Detroit Pistons' Allen Iverson, right, puts up a shot as he is fouled by New Jersey Nets' Vince Carter during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Friday night, Nov. 7, 2008 in East Rutherford, N.J. Iverson scored 24 points, but the Nets beat the Pistons, 103-96.

Hawks 110, Raptors 92

In Atlanta, Mike Bibby scored all of his 19 points in the first half, making four 3-pointers during an 18-4 run that broke open the game, and the unbeaten Atlanta Hawks routed the Toronto Raptors 110-92 on Friday night.

Bibby added 12 assists for Atlanta (4-0). The Hawks are off to their best start since 1997, when they won their first 11 games.

Chris Bosh led Toronto (3-2) with 26 points. Jose Calderon, the Raptors' second-leading scorer, had only six points on 2-of-10 shooting, but finished with 12 assists.

Bibby was 7-for-9 from the field in the first half, hitting five of seven 3-pointers. He went 0-for-3 after the break.

Celtics 101, Bucks 89

In Boston, Paul Pierce had 18 points and 10 rebounds to help the Boston Celtics overcome their second straight slow start and beat the undermanned Milwaukee Bucks 101-89 on Friday night.

The Celtics trailed by 11 points midway through the first quarter and didn't go ahead until Kevin Garnett's dunk made it 44-42 with 4:13 left in the half. They led the rest of the way behind the NBA's best field-goal defense.

On Wednesday night, the Celtics beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 96-83 after trailing 29-21 going into the second quarter.

On Friday, the Bucks led 30-23 after one quarter despite missing leading scorer Michael Redd for the second straight game with a sprained right ankle. They did have Richard Jefferson, who was unstoppable in the first six minutes.

Bobcats 92, Hornets 89

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Jason Richardson and Raymond Felton scored 20 points apiece, rookie D.J. Augustin spearheaded a late comeback, and the Charlotte Bobcats spoiled Chris Paul's homecoming, beating the New Orleans Hornets 92-89 on Friday night.

New coach Larry Brown tinkered with his lineup late, going with the rookie point guard Augustin, who helped Charlotte regroup after blowing a 14-point lead to give Brown his second win with the struggling franchise.

Paul, who grew up 90 minutes away and bought 500 tickets for friends and family, recovered from a scoreless first half to have 20 points and 10 assists, but had a key turnover in the final minute before missing a tying 3-point attempt at the buzzer.

The Hornets, who also got 20 points from Peja Stojakovic, stormed back behind Paul to take as much as a five-point lead midway through the fourth quarter.

Cavs 111, Pacers 107

In Indiana, LeBron James scored 27 points and Anderson Varejao added a career-high 18, including 10 in the fourth quarter , as the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied to beat the Indiana Pacers 111-107 on Friday night.

Mo Williams, a key offseason acquisition from Milwaukee, finished with 21 for Cleveland, which scored 40 points in the fourth quarter.

Danny Granger tied his season high with 33 points for Indiana. He scored 21 in the first half.

Varejao gave Cleveland, which trailed throughout most of the first three periods, a needed boost. The Pacers led 79-72 early in the fourth, but the reserve forward scored seven straight points. Wally Szczerbiak hit a 3-pointer and James hit a jump shot to tie the game at 84 with 8:59 left.

T.J. Ford made two free throws, but Varejao scored on a layup off James' assist, was fouled and made the free throw, giving the Cavaliers an 87-86 lead with 8:27 left.

Knicks 114, Wizards 108

In Washington, the winning New York Knicks are having a ball running up and down the floor. The winless Washington Wizards might need an overhaul of three-fifths of their starting lineup.

Jamal Crawford led new coach Mike D'Antoni's never-take-a-breath attack with 23 points, and the Knicks spread the wealth with five players in double figures and 51 percent shooting Friday night in a 114-108 victory over the Wizards.

"It's fun," said Chris Duhon, who had 12 assists and no turnovers. "We still have a lot to learn. We're still trying to get comfortable with it, but so far we're doing a pretty good job with it. The thing is, as the season continues to go on, we're just going to continue to get better and better."

NBA BRIEFS

Parkers sprains ankle

SAN ANTONIO (AP) —San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker left Friday's game against the Miami Heat late in the first quarter with a left ankle injury.

He underwent X-rays, which came back negative, but has been ruled out for the rest of the night.

With just under two minutes remaining in the opening period, Parker drove the lane and tried to pull up but planted awkwardly on his left foot and collapsed. He left the floor with four points on 2-of-5 shooting.

Coming off a career performance with 55 points in the Spurs' overtime victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday, Parker is the team's leading scorer this season at 33.2 points per game.

The Spurs are already without his backcourt mate, Manu Ginobili, who is still recovering

Shaq gets night off against the Bulls

CHICAGO (AP)—Phoenix Suns center Shaquille O'Neal got the night off against the Chicago Bulls on Friday night, part of a plan to rest him periodically throughout the season.

"The thought process, in some of our back-to-backs is try to give him some kind of rest," Suns coach Terry Porter said.

O'Neal is averaging 12 points and 8.2 rebounds in the Suns' 4-1 start. Porter expects him back in the lineup Saturday against the Milwaukee Bucks.

"Most likely he probably will play, in that type of scenario when they have a post presence. And historically (Andrew) Bogut has hurt the Phoenix Suns in the last few years so we will definitely try to play him (Saturday)," Porter said.

Porter said it took some convincing to get O'Neal to go along with the plan.

"He is very proud and obviously he has had a great resume and so he wants to be on the floor with his teammates and help his teammates out," Porter said. "And in that respect, we have to kind of convince him and tell him to look at the big picture as opposed to looking at the small part of this journey."from surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left ankle.

Allan Houston joins New York Knicks front office

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unable to make a comeback on the court, Allan Houston was given a front office position with the New York Knicks on Friday, hired as the assistant to the president for basketball operations.

Houston, the fourth-leading scorer in franchise history, was waived during preseason last month to end his second attempt to return to the game. He initially retired in October 2005 because of chronic knee pain.

"Allan has great knowledge and understanding of this league and our franchise," president of basketball operations Donnie Walsh said, "and I think he will be a tremendous asset to our front office in player development as he continues to learn and educate himself."

Marbury backs off plan to practice with HS team

WASHINGTON (AP)—Knicks guard Stephon Marbury backed off Friday on a plan to practice with his old high school team while he's not getting playing time with New York.

Marbury had expressed interest Thursday in practicing with his alma mater, Abraham Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, to stay in shape while he's stuck on the bench for the Knicks.

"I'm not going to do it," Marbury said Friday. "I spoke to the Players' Association and they said it wouldn't be a good idea."

Although Marbury dressed for the team's Friday morning shootaround, the guard hasn't appeared in any games this season and isn't expected to play against the Washington Wizards on Friday night.

Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni hadn't heard of Marbury's plan when asked about it before the shootaround, but had no problem with the idea.

Fall Classic kicks off with more than 60 junior players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2008 Fall Classic Junior Tennis Championships kicked off yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts with more than 60 players completing for three division titles.

The field had a mixed of old and new players, keeping tournament director Jeff Race busy for the whole day. Race said this year's field is one of the biggest in the annual tournament.

Matches began as early as 8am with participants in the boys' 14-and-under division starting the hostilities in the annual tournament sponsored by Tan Holdings.

Boys' 14-and-under top seed Rafael Jones made his presence felt in the three-day netfest winning his first match against Chris Park, 8-1, to advance to the quarterfinals.

Other quarterfinalists were Chris Cajigan, Lucas Nutting, Clay McCullough-Sterns, Jake Lee, and Tommy Choi.

Boys' 14-and-under second seed Christian Miller was dueling RJ Aquino for the last quarterfinals berth yesterday.

The quarterfinals pairings are Cajigan-Jones, Nutting-Park, and Clay-Lee.

Matches in the 14-and-under and 18-and-under divisions were played in an 8-point pro set.

In the boys' 18-and-under division, which drew eight players, Joseph Yang advanced to the semis, along with Nathan Nutting and Woo Suk Chang.

Top-seed Benjie Decena was squaring off with Min Seok Kim for the last semis berth yesterday.

Yang moved into the semis after beating Andy Nutting, 8-3. Nathan and Chang defeated Sung Jin Kim (8-4) and Sung Hoon (8-3) Ham, respectively, in the other quarterfinals matches.

Games in the girls' 14-and-under and 18-and-under divisions were also played yesterday with a round-robin format.

Neghar Rastguiy, Amy Arenovski and Ilia Corella won their opening assignments in the 14-and-under age group.

Neghar prevailed over Jean Bracken, 8-4, while Arenovski and Corella won via walkover over Jee Hyun Lee.

In the girls' 18-and-under, Thea Minor downed sister Theecel, 8-2, while Jodel Fernandez also won via a walkover against Dina Jones.

Most of the matches in the girls' 14-and-under and 18-and-under age groups will be played today and on Tuesday.

In the boys' 10-and-under division, three advanced to the quarterfinals.

The list include Carl Dela Cruz, who outclassed John Cano, 6-1; Ruther Lizama, who outlasted Kevin Rhee, 7-5; and Aaron Lee, who beat Clayton Isuka, 6-4.

In the girls' 10-and-under division, Tammy Ackerman, Adele Hudkins, Gabrielle Race, and Emily Jones booked semis tickets.

Ackerman drew a bye in the first round and will face Hudkins in the semis as the latter won over Liza Atalig, 6-3.

Race defeated Sakura Imaya to set-up a semis match with Jones, who slipped past Carol Lee, 6-2.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Morris Villanueva prepares to serve against Geesyu Han during their boys' 10-and-under match in the 2008 Fall Classic Junior Tennis Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carl Dela Cruz returns the ball to John Cano during their boys' 10-and-under match in the 2008 Fall Classic Junior Tennis Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

EAGLES

From Page 28

ball slipped on their hands while preparing for a setup job.

With Matagolai and Jung having off games, Igitol had little opportunities to go for kills, leaving Noelle Calvo the task to go for spikes, which were easily received by GCA defenders.

On offense, the Eagles also played away from the net most of the time despite having 6-foot-1 Dae Woon Jeon and three other leapers in the middle.

When Jeon and the rest of the GCA frontliners went for kills, they made sure they were powerful ones and difficult enough for the Knights to return. Several times, Jeon and backup blocker/spiker Luther Taylor bluffed MCS defenders, looking to go for strong kills, but in the last minute would just go for placings.

Backliners Denise Das, Stephanie Batallones, Philvinia Atalig, and Colleen Kinsella did a great job hustling for the ball to complete their frontliners' wise plays.

Other members of the winning team were Angelo Salas, Anthony Borja, Brandon and Nathan Chargualaf, Dae Min Jeon, Keith Salan, Rika Kaijo, Keala Peters, and Ceejay Libut.

Mark Robles coached the Eagles and it was his second straight title for the GCA.

Robles said it was their game plan not to play Mt. Carmel on the net and he was happy his players followed their strategy.

"Mt. Carmel won against MBA because of their good net game. Those big spikes and blocks gave the Knights the energy to win the semifinals game," Robles said.

"After seeing MCS beat MBA, I told our players to stay calm, don't be overwhelmed with the battle on the net or when the crowd is up on its feet, and keep the ball away from the Knigh's blockers and tossers," he added.

With GCA players following Robles' game plan, the Eagles won the first set easily.

In the second set, the Eagles started to play the Knights' game and the former paid for the gamble, as Mt. Carmel moved within one, 5-6.

But that was the closest that the Knights could, as the Eagles returned to their senses, keeping the game away from the net, again.

The Knights tried to bring the game on the net, but Mike Villagomez, who replaced Jung midway in the second set, committed several errors as his kills were either going out or hitting the net.

When Jung reported back into the game trying to repair the damage for the Knights, it was already too late as the Eagles were pulling away, leading at 21-5.

When GCA was breaking the game wide open, Igitol and Matagolai were way out of the net watching their title bid fall apart.

Despite a big lead, the Eagles continued to hustle for the ball in the end with Das delivering the game-winning point. Coming from the middle, Das chased the ball to the left sideline and returned it to the Knights' court.

Igitol attempted for a toss, but had no luck as it slipped away from his hands, prompting an Eagles celebration.

In the battle for third place, Seventh Day Adventists outlasted MBA in three sets, 25-23, 24-26, 15-13.

GCA

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tian Academy, GCA's James Sakamoto, Marianas Baptist Academy's Jenny Sakamoto, Seventh Day Adventists' Kono Remeliik, Saipan International School-Blue's Amber Roberts, and SIS-Green's Henry Lee.

SDA took the Sportsmanship Award.

This year's high school volleyball league drew seven teams. GCA finished on top of the regular season with a 12-0 record and was seeded first in the players.

MBA was ranked second, followed by, Mt. Carmel, SIS-Blue, SDA, CCA, and SIS-Green.

The Eagles drew a bye in the first round of the playoffs, while the six remaining teams battled for the three semis tickets.

SDA defeated SIS-Blue in the quarterfinals, joining MBA and Mt. Carmel in the semis. The Knights topped the Calvary Sharks, while the MBA Storms whipped SIS-Green.

In the semifinals, the Eagles defeated the SDA in straight sets, while Mt. Carmel needed three sets to thwart MBA.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	5	1	.833	_
New York	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Toronto	3	2	.600	1 1/2
New Jersey	2	2	.500	2
Philadelphia	2	4	.333	3

Southeast Division

Atlanta	4	0	1.000	_
Miami	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Orlando	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Charlotte	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Washington	0	4	.000	4

Central Division

Detroit	4	1	.800	_
Cleveland	4	2	.667	1/2
Chicago	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Milwaukee	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Indiana	1	3	.250	2 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	4	2	.667	_
New Orleans	3	2	.600	1/2
Memphis	3	3	.500	1
Dallas	2	3	.400	1 1/2
San Antonio	1	4	.200	2 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	5	0	1.000	_
Denver	2	3	.400	3
Portland	2	3	.400	3
Minnesota	1	4	.200	4
Oklahoma City	1	4	.200	4

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	4	0	1.000	_
Phoenix	4	2	.667	1
Golden State	2	4	.333	3
Sacramento	2	4	.333	3
L.A. Clippers	0	6	.000	5

Yesterday's Games

New York 114, Washington 108
Charlotte 92, New Orleans 89
Atlanta 110, Toronto 92
New Jersey 103, Detroit 96
Boston 101, Milwaukee 89
Cleveland 111, Indiana 109
Miami 99, San Antonio 83
Chicago 100, Phoenix 83
Utah 104, Oklahoma City 97
Sacramento 121, Minnesota 109
Denver 108, Dallas 105
Memphis 109, Golden State 104
Houston 92, L.A. Clippers 83

DISNEY CLASSIC SCORES

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida (AP)—Scores Friday from the Children's Miracle Network Classic, a $4.6 million (3.6 million euros) US PGA Tour event on two par-72 courses at Walt Disney Resort; 7,516-yard Magnolia Course and 7,010-yard Palm Course:

SECOND ROUND

Scott Verplank	64-64	128
Steve Marino	65-66	131
Troy Matteson	63-68	131
Robert Gamez	65-67	132
Tag Ridings	66-66	132
Robert Garrigus	65-67	132
Ken Duke	66-67	133
Jason Gore	66-67	133
Kevin Streelman	64-69	133
Bob Estes	70-63	133
Tom Pernice Jr.	66-67	133
Scott Sterling	70-63	133
Matt Jones	70-64	134
Martin Laird	68-66	134
Bo Van Pelt	68-66	134
Tommy Gainey	68-66	134
Tim Petrovic	67-67	134
Tim Wilkinson	68-66	134
Jeff Overton	67-68	135
Steve Flesch	67-68	135
Kirk Triplett	65-70	135
Rich Beem	65-70	135
Bob Tway	73-62	135
Tim Clark	69-66	135
Harrison Frazar	67-68	135
Davis Love III	66-69	135
Lee Janzen	69-67	136
Cameron Beckman	68-68	136
Stephen Ames	68-68	136
Charles Howell III	68-68	136
Jimmy Walker	64-72	136
Y.E. Yang	68-68	136
Ryan Palmer	71-65	136
Stewart Cink	66-70	136
Joe Durant	68-68	136
Woody Austin	68-68	136
Carlos Franco	69-67	136
J.J. Henry	67-69	136
Carl Pettersson	68-68	136
Tommy Armour III	68-69	137
Tom Scherrer	69-68	137
John Riegger	68-69	137
Will MacKenzie	68-69	137
Bob Sowards	69-68	137
Todd Demsey	67-70	137
Michael Bradley	70-67	137
Brenden Pappas	71-66	137
Ted Purdy	69-68	137
Michael Allen	70-67	137
John Rollins	68-69	137
Jason Day	72-66	138
Mathias Gronberg	67-71	138
Robert Allenby	66-72	138
Zach Johnson	66-72	138
Richard S. Johnson	70-68	138
Heath Slocum	71-67	138
Kevin Stadler	67-71	138
Erik Compton	70-68	138
Chris Stroud	70-68	138
Dudley Hart	70-69	139
Jerry Kelly	71-68	139
Vaughn Taylor	68-71	139
Frank Lickliter II	74-65	139
Chris DiMarco	68-71	139
Marc Turnesa	71-68	139
Omar Uresti	67-72	139
J.B. Holmes	71-68	139
Jeff Maggert	73-66	139
Patrick Sheehan	68-71	139
Nick Watney	69-70	139
Boo Weekley	68-71	139

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fall Classic kicks off with more than 60 junior players

The 2008 Fall Classic Junior Tennis Championships kicked off yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nets spoil Iverson's debut with Pistons

Devin Harris scored a career-high 38 points Friday night to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 103-96 victory over Detroit, spoiling Allen Iverson's debut with the Pistons.

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Eagles soar to fifth title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy recorded a masterful 25-11, 25-10 victory over Mt. Carmel School in the finals of the 2008-2009 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League Friday to notch an unprecedented fifth championship in a row in the high school division.

The Eagles played it smart engaging the Knights in a battle away from the net moving the latter out of their comfort zone.

The Knight entered the one-game finals boosting with confidence following their hard-earned semis win over the MBA Storms, 23-25, 27-25, 15-11.

Against the Stormz, the Knights survived through the impressive games on the net by Jake Igitol, Peter Matagolai, and Min Joo Jung.

When Mt. Carmel faced GCA in the finals, the Knights trio played without its lethal weapons—blocks and spikes.

Matagolai and Jung were frustrated in their setup plays, as they were called for tossing violation on several occasions. On a couple of times, the

See EAGLES on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The GCA Eagles pose with their championship trophy during the award ceremony for the 2008-2009 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Eagles beat the MCS Knights in the title match.

GCA's D.W. Jeon wins MVP honors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy's Dae Won Jeon received a fitting gift for his 18th birthday—a most valuable player award.

The Eagles spiker was named MVP in the 2008-2009 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League during the award ceremony Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Jeon celebrated his birthday on the same day the Eagles claimed the high school division title beating Mt. Carmel in the finals, 25-11, 25-10.

The 6-foot-1 Jeon led the Eagles to an unbeaten season in the high school volleyball league and outsmarted the Knights frontliners in the title game.

Jeon received a trophy for his feat and his teammates chanted "Happy Birthday Dae Won" when he got his award.

League organizer Becky Covarrubias, who was a former GCA coach, handed the trophy to Jeon and other individual awardees of the 2008 season.

Also receiving awards were the MVPs of each school. The list include William Salazar of Calvary Chris-

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The GCA Eagles' Dae Won Jeon, right, in action against two Mt. Carmel defenders during their title game in the high school division of the 2008-2009 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

'I have a dream'

President-elect Barack Obama went on Monday Night Football last weekend publicly, and loudly, advocating a college football playoff. Hooray!

Normally I would not endorse the government getting involved in sports this way, but since President Bush authorized torture and secret prisons and the government moved toward socialism by buying into the stock market, I guess Obama's foray into the sports world with common sense does not seem so bad by comparison.

In the spirit of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech, here are my dreams of what I would do if I was president. I mean, if Obama got elected, then we all have a chance, right?

The best thing Bush did during his two terms was have tee-ball games for kids in the White House back yard.

I would continue that and build an outdoor basketball half-court for the first ever 3 on 3 Presidential Challenge. It would be a game with me, Kevin Garnett and Lebron James versus Danny DeVito, Henry Kissinger and Willie Nelson. First team to score 200 wins. Hey, I want to win.

I would use my vast executive powers to re-insert the asterisk for all MLB home run records set between 1995-2006. Either that, or get a large bottle of white-out and erase them.

Enlisting the help of the CIA, I would slip disguised and incognito into any sporting event that I wanted to attend. My bodyguards would be dressed like Vincent and Jules in Pulp Fiction, you know, e.g. University of Santa Barbara Banana Slugs t-shirt with plaid shorts.

I would take the Oklahoma City Thunder and return them to Seattle to be the Sonics just for Richard Pierce's sake. And then move the NBA All-Star game to the Marianas High School gym.

After the college football season is over, I would take Air Force One to Gainesville, Florida, pick up Tim Tebow and fly him to the Philippines for him to do his missionary work, and stay there with him until he says he's ready to go back.

I would take swimming lessons from Michael Phelps.

Invitations to go to the White House would not only be extended to every team that wins a championship, but also to Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Yogi Berra, Sandy Koufax, Tiger Woods, John Elway, Emmitt Smith, and Danny Wuerrfel.

Banned from within 1,000 feet of the White House would be Barry Bonds, Terrell Owens, Raphael Palmeiro, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Nick Saban, Roger Clemens, and O.J. Simpson.

I would invite Halle Berry to dinner every weekend. Okay, I know that does not have anything to do with sports, but I can dream, can't I?